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# THE MAGAZINE THAT RIPS THE LID OFF PRO WRESTLING CONTENTS/MAY 1991

4 SINCERELY YOURS
Worrisome Windham; Jake's Great; Who's The Hood?

6 SAKS' NOTEBOOK by Stu Saks Life goes on, but it's not the same

8 NAMES MAKIN' NEWS by Bill Apter All the latest news as of press time

10 ON THE ROAD with Craig Peters A wrestler all America can take pride in

12 BEHIND THE DRESSING ROOM DOOR by David Rosenbaum Larry Zbyszko, Sgt. Slaughter, and WrestleMania VII

14 THE INSIDER by Eddie Ellner
Taking an old feud to ridiculous extremes

16 ON ASSIGNMENT by Liz Hunter A reprehensible act by the Warrior—and the WWF

18 WHERE ARE THEY NOW? Updates on four major mat stars 19 CAPSULE PROFILE #178

A mini-biography plus pinup of B. Brian Blair

22 NEWS FROM THE WRESTLING CAPITALS
Eyewitness coverage of the month's major matches

24 MATT BROCK'S PLAIN SPEAKING

Of war zones, rock clubs, and wild wenches

27 DAVID SAMMARTINO PINS IVAN KOLOFF:

"IT WAS AN ANNIVERSARY GIFT FOR MY DAD!"

Twenty years are Koloff took Prins Sammarting's title

Twenty years ago, Koloff took Bruno Sammartino's title 30 THE STEINERS' SECRET PACT:

IF ONE WINS THE WORLD TITLE, THE OTHER GETS A SHOT It might spell the end of the sport's best team

34 RIC FLAIR'S SEVENTH TITLE REIGN: HIS LAST CHANCE FOR RESPECT

Even with seven titles, it's a long way back to glory
38 CONSUMED BY HATRED! SAVAGE VS. WARRIOR:

THE BLOODLUST OF EX-CHAMPIONS
The WWF is becoming their personal battleground

42 STING: "DON'T CALL ME À CRYBABY, I JUST WANT JUSTICE!" The former NWA World champion tells all in this "Hotseat" interview

46 VIRGIL LEAVES TED DIBIASE: A MILLION-DOLLAR MISTAKE? Did the valet ruin his future to gain his freedom?

50 ONE ON ONE

Barry Windham vs. Dan Spivey

64 OFFICIAL WRESTLING RATINGS
Top 15 rankings in six important categories

55 INSIDE WRESTLING ROLL CALL OF CHAMPIONS The most comprehensive championship directory available anywhere

66 BLAST FROM THE PAST
This month in wrestling history

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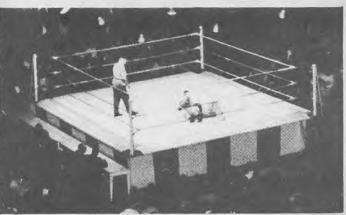
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SEND LETTERS TO:

## SINCERELY YOURS

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## GIVE IT UP, HULK

I took great delight in reading the article in the March 1991 issue concerning Hulk Hogan and Earthquake ("The Earthquake Feud Rumbles On: Will Hulk Hogan Be The Victim Of His Own Deadly Obsession?"). I must say this: Hulk, end this feud now!

## WORRISOME WINDHAM

All of The Four Horsemen make me sick, but I truly believe that Barry Windham is the most dangerous of any of them. When I read his comments about the NWA in the March 1991 "Hotseat," I nearly lost my lunch.



If Hulk Hogan doesn't end his feud with Earthquake soon, he'll put his career in danger, in reader Sean Fluharty's opinion.

I've followed all of Hogan's feuds over the years, and this one is taking its toll on the "Hulkster" unlike any of his battles of the past. Even though he has dominated the 462-pound behemoth in recent outings, Hogan still is taking a beating like never before. And the war is still raging!

Take my advice, Hulk, bring this feud to an end. Otherwise, it may be your *career* that comes to an end.

SEAN FLUHARTY Baton Rouge, LA How dare Windham claim that his "few minutes as Sting was nauseating"! I'll bet Windham wishes his career was half as successful as Sting's has been. After all, Sting has been NWA World champion. Windham has held a few belts, but not the big one.

Windham is obviously full of baloney, but that doesn't mean I don't fear him. It's clear from his comments that he's willing to go to any lengths to become a success again. He sounds frustrated, and when a man this nasty



If Barry Windham says his few minutes as Sting were "nauseating," it's because he's jealous of the former World champion, reader Roberta Willis says.

is upset, he's capable of just about anything.

Sid Vicious is bigger and stronger, but Windham is the Horseman I distrust the most.

ROBERTA WILLIS
Boston

### FOOL AND HIS MONEY

Mike Rotundo—or should I say Michael Wall Street—is a jerk, and the article in the March 1991 issue proved it ("Michael Wall Street: Planning A Hostile Takeover Of The NWA"). Wall Street has always been an outstanding talent, but I think he's schizophrenic.

For years, he was plain old Mike Rotundo, scientific marvel from Syracuse, New York. Then he became a member of The Varsity Club, and was



Michael Wall Street uses his wealth to buy Alexandra York's computer wizardry, not to buy a title. Reader Jim Bradley maintains that is what sets him apart from Ted DiBiase.

at Kevin Sullivan's disposal. Next, he became a fan favorite again, calling himself *Captain* Mike Rotundo and adorning himself with a bunch of naval hats and jackets. Now, since he's become rich (and exceedingly arrogant), he's Michael Wall Street.

This man is a major loon. I suggest he seek psychiatric help as soon as possible.

> FREDDY KAMMONS Little Rock, AR

With his newfound wealth, it is only natural to draw comparisions between Michael Wall Street and another millionaire, Ted DiBiase. On the surface, there are similarities between the two. However, there is a distinct difference in the way each is using money to further his wrestling career.

DiBiase tries to use his wealth as a shortcut to a championship. He has bribed officials, bought favors, and even attempted to purchase the WWF World title from Hulk Hogan. Wall Street is investing his money in technological aids that enable him to analyze matches, scout opponents, and plan strategy. He then uses this information to improve his own wrestling.

That is the fundamental difference between the two: DiBiase wants to *buy* a title, while Wall Street is trying to *win* a title.

JIM BRADLEY Jackson, NJ

## DRAWING COMPARISONS

I wish I could've been there when PWF champion Steve Keirn locked up with Lou Perez for their amazing one-



Reader Mike Potter wishes he could have witnessed the one-hour draw between Steve Keirn and Lou Perez in person.

hour draw, as detailed in the March 1991 issue ("No Chairs, No Fists, Nobody Believes It! The One-Hour Draw That Made Wrestling Proud"). It reminded me of some of the other great draws in wrestling history.

In fact, I believe that a draw can be every bit as exciting as a title change. Who can ever forget Bruno Sammartino's classic battle with Pedro Morales for the WWF World title in 1972? Or Sting's remarkable 45-minute stalemate with NWA World champion Ric Flair at Clash of the Champions I in 1988?

I salute both Keirn and Perez. They proved there can be honor in this sport, even in a match with no winner.

MIKE POTTER Helena, MT

### SEVEN'S THE CHARM

"Slick Ric" has done it again! Ric Flair has become NWA World champion for the seventh time, despite what all the experts said—especially when I



When Ric Flair defeated Sting to capture his seventh NWA World title, he proved all the experts wrong, says Carter Riner.

think back to the article in the November 1990 issue ("Ric Flair: Why A Seventh Title Reign Is Out Of Reach").

Although the piece was very informative, it underestimated the living legend that is Ric Flair. The "Nature

(Continued on page 52)

## NOTEBOOK By Stu Saks

Life hasn't been the same since about 7 p.m. Eastern time, January 16. That's just about the time the war began.

"Life goes on," they say. "They" being everybody who, in the midst of death and destruction halfway around the world, can go to work or watch the Super Bowl or make a business deal or flip wrestling on the tube. And, of course, they're right. Life does go on. Nobody, however, said it would be the same as it was before.

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Everything I see and hear reminds me of war. I went bowling the other day, and after three open frames, I actually told myself to pretend that the head pin was Saddam Hussein. It worked, but I embarrassed myself just thinking that way. On the train platform the other day, I saw a man with a moustache wearing a beret. Saddam. I hated him for a brief instant.

As of January 16, I stopped looking at life as I had before. And that includes wrestling. No, this is not another editorial deploring Vince McMahon for allowing Sgt. Slaughter to espouse his ugly anti-American views while good people are being killed in the name of freedom. The point here is that it's getting a little difficult for me to get angry at @ men like Curt Hennig and Michael Hayes for pulling their opponents' hair when there's a man halfway around the world who, with a simple order, can launch a missile at innocent civilians or dump millions of gallons of crude oil into a source of drinking water and the home of wildlife.

Here's hoping that, very soon, we can go back to hating the wrestlers the way we always did. Or that we can once again lose ourselves in our mindless pastimes without having to be interrupted with the latest news of tragedy. Or that we can wake up in the morning and flip on a rock station instead of the all-news network that tells us how many men we lost while we slept.

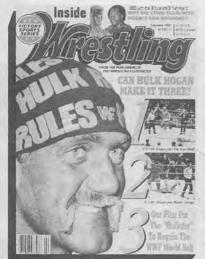
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## NAMES MAKI

Terry Taylor has signed a contract with Ms. Alexandra York and has returned to his rulebreaking ways. The formerly popular NWA star shocked his legions of fans when he turned against Rick Morton during what was supposed to be a scientific match on the nationally televised Clash of the Champions XIV on January 30 in Gainesville, Georgia.

York will serve as Taylor's administrative assistant, as she had previously done for **Mike Rotundo**, who departed the NWA in late-January.

"Mike's loss is my gain," said Taylor, who for months has been trying to



MICHAEL WALL STREET & ALEXANDRA YORK

live down his stint as **The Red Rooster** in the WWF. "When I came back to the NWA, I vowed that I'd make the name 'Terry Taylor' honorable again. But even after winning all my bouts, the promoters refused to grant me title shots. So now I've hired Ms. York, whose computer skills will ensure that I win every match in record time—and capture every championship in the NWA."

York has announced that, by using

her computerized scouting reports, Taylor will be able to win every match within the time she specifies *before* the bouts even begin.

"If my computer says Taylor should



TERRY TAYLOR

beat, say, **Tom Zenk** in less than 11:40, then that's exactly what Terry will do," said York, who is developing a stable of wrestlers she has dubbed **The York Foundation**. "Like I always say, computers don't deal in predictions. They deal in cold, hard facts. With my knowledge and his ability, Terry will be a champion in the NWA within a matter of weeks. It was a setback for me when Rotundo decided to leave the sport for a while, but this more than makes up for it."

Taylor believes he's scored a major career coup, but his reversion to rule-breaking has angered many of his former friends—particularly Zenk, who doesn't appreciate being made an example of York's supposed expertise.

"All this stuff is hooey," fumed Zenk. "Machines can help with strategy, but they can't figure what a real flesh-and-blood opponent is going to do during a match. Terry's let this garbage go to his head, but I'll straighten

him out by beating him—and proving to the world that a computer chip can never replace real brains and skill."

York's computers aren't the only technology that may play an important part of the sport. WWF President Jack Tunney announced that he was considering instituting an instant replay rule in the federation. After interference by Randy Savage led to the The Ultimate Warrior's loss of the WWF World title to Sgt. Slaughter at the Royal Rumble on January 19 in Miami, Tunney finally realized that something had to be done.

Tunney has long been a believer of letting his referees handle all ring prob-



RANDY SAVAGE

lems, but even veteran arbiter **Dave Hebner** could not control Savage during the Rumble. Twice during the match, Savage brutally attacked Warrior. And when Savage blasted Warrior in the head with his scepter, it led directly to Slaughter's pinfall victory.

## N' NEWS

## Bill Apter reporting...

"Tunney has had more than enough of this," said a WWF source. "If the instant replay rule was in effect at the Rumble, Warrior would still be WWF champion today. It wouldn't surprise me to see the new rule become law by the time WrestleMania VII rolls around. But, of course, there's heavy opposition to this proposal. Most WWF managers, including **Bobby Heenan**, **Mr. Fuji**, and **Jimmy Hart**, don't care for the idea at all."

Speaking of managers in the WWF, add another name to that federation's management stable: **Percy Pringle** has taken over the managerial reigns of **The Undertaker** and is now calling himself **Paul Bearer**! Undertaker's previous manager, **Brother Love**, wants to devote more time to interviewing duties . . . "**Superstar" Bill Dundee** captured the revived USWA Texas



**PAUL BEARER & UNDERTAKER** 

title on January 25 in Dallas. Dundee pinned **Gary Young** in the tournament final ... **Jumbo Tsuruta** shocked Japanese fans by winning the "triple crown" of titles—the PWF, United National, and All-Japan International championships—from **Stan Hansen** on January 19 in Matsumoto, Japan. "The Lariat" has since returned to the NWA.

The USWA tag team title was held up following a wild match pitting the champions, **The Fabulous Ones**, against **Jeff Jarrett** and **Jerry Lawler** on January 28 in Memphis. During the wild melee, as referee **Frank Morell** tried to gain control of the bout and was directing Lawler out of the ring, **Stan Lane** and **Steve Keirn** combined to deliver five brutal spike-piledrivers on Jarrett.

Later, after Morell had been kayoed



JERRY LAWLER



JAMIE DUNDEE

by Lane, Lawler piledrived Keirn. As the groggy Morell started to make the three-count, another referee, **Jamie Dundee**, ran to the ring and informed Morell of the piledriver, which is illegal in Tennessee. Morell then awarded the match to the Fabs by disqualification.

Lawler admitted to Morell that he had piledrived Keirn, but also noted that Lane and Keirn had done the same to Jarrett earlier. Morell ended the confusion by ordering that the title be held up pending a rematch.

"This was an excellent decision," said Lawler following the bout. "The match degenerated into a total mess, so declaring the title vacant was the only sensible thing to do. One thing bothers me, though. Jamie says he only saw me piledrive Keirn. But how could he miss the Fabs piledriving Jeff five times? Jamie's the son of **Bill Dundee**, who's my best friend. What gives?"

Longtime Tennessee promoter **Nick Gulas**, 76, died on January 21 in Nashville following a long illness. Gulas was one of the most successful promoters in the sport from the '60s through the '70s. He is the father of **George Gulas**, who was a popular competitor during the '70s.

66 BULLET" BOB Armstrong, a 25-year veteran of the mat sport, is a proud and patriotic man. Three of his sons, Brad, Scott, and Steve, currently compete in the ring wars. Bob's youngest son, Brian, has one pro match to his credit, and is currently competing in an entirely different war.

Brian, a corporal in the United States Marines, is currently serving with a unit stationed in Saudi Arabia near the Kuwaiti border.

"It scrapes on your nerves, living in your fighting holes and waiting for the real fight," Brian said in a January 23

article in *USA Today*. "We've got past the point where we sit around talking about how tough and leatherneckmean we are. We have got to the point where we know the day is coming when we'll have to prove it."



Brian Armstrong

"I support him,"
Bob said, "I do
hate war, but my
son is in the middle
of it, and I can't do
anything but support him."

Brian has been in the Corps since he was 18 years old. At 21, he's halfway through a six-year tour of duty. His stint in the Gulf began on Christmas Day. He had spent Christmas Eve with his family, and flew from Gulf Breeze,

Florida, to Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, at 6:30 a.m. Christmas morning, then on to the Middle East.

"When he joined the Marines," Scott told me, "I felt like he was doing a 'like father, like son' thing. He was the baby of the family, and he had three older brothers and he wanted to prove himself in a different way.

"When he went over there, he had the outlook the Marines drive in your head, 'kill or be killed,' and that was his attitude. Before he left, he got to spend the last couple of days at home with us, and he was as much a maniac as he always was. But he's ready."

By the way, did somebody say "like father, like son"? "In 1957, I joined the Marine Corps," said Bob. "I won the Outstanding Man Award in boot camp in Parris Island, South Carolina. Thirty years later, in 1987, Brian won the same award when he was at Parris Island. It was a real proud moment. A real proud moment."

Another proud moment took place on May 19, 1990, in Colquit, Georgia. Brian made his pro wrestling debut during a card held in conjunction with Georgia's annual Mayhaw Festival. He teamed with his father to defeat Randy Barber and Jason Walker.

"We won in about 18 minutes, and it was a double-pin situation after two sunset flips," Bob says with fatherly pride

"As a matter of fact," Scott told me, "that day was



probably the first time in wrestling history that five members of the same family wrestled on the same card—and we all won! Brian and Dad won their match, Brad beat The Spoiler, Steve beat Mike Sullivan, and I won a 20-man battle royal and captured the Southeast junior heavyweight title from Mike Jackson. Not a bad day all around!"

Brian, the youngest sibling in the

Brian, the youngest sibling in the Armstrong clan, couldn't help but pick up a significant amount of wrestling skills from his father and brothers. Backyard sparring sessions were commonplace, and Brian's natural physical gifts (6'4", 230 pounds—"the youngest

turned out to be the biggest," says Bob) seemed to make a career in the pro ranks a natural.

Then Brian answered the call of duty.

Scott and Bob both talk of Brian with enormous pride in their voices, but that pride is, of course, laced with an unsettling sense fear. "Scary" is a word that Scott used several times, and Bob spoke of being glued to CNN in the hopes of catching a glimpse of his son being interviewed.

"He called once from Saudi Arabia, but could only talk for about three or four minutes," Bob said. "He said there was a line of guys about a mile back waiting to use the phone!"

I asked both Armstrongs what they think about Sgt. Slaughter holding the WWF World title.



The Armstrongs: Brian, Steve, Brad, Scott, and "Bullet" Bob

"I really think it's bad for public morale," Scott observes.

"I've always tried to leave politics out of my wrestling," said Bob very matter-of-factly. "Politics is one thing, wrestling is another."

"I think as soon as the war is over," adds Scott, "you'll see some of these guys come back and be wrestlers, too. I know Brad wants to. He's had one match and he hasn't stopped talking about it since.

"The night before he left, all the brothers were together. 'Man, I want to be down here with you guys so bad,' he said. He loves wrestling. He'd mess with us in the backyard every chance he could."

"We're looking forward, as soon as he gets back, to having him wrestle some more matches," Bob said.

So are we all, Bob.

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September 1988

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## Behind the Dressing Room Door

by David Rosenbaum F ALL THE people shocked by Sgt. Slaughter's WWF World title victory over The Ultimate Warrior, perhaps nobody was as shocked as Larry Zbyszko.

The two-time former AWA champion and longtime archrival of Slaughter's never had much respect for Slaughter, and didn't even seem to care much when the former United States Marine left the AWA for the WWF.

"He was no factor here and he'll be no factor there," Zbyszko said.

Surprise!

There have been many unbelievable events in wrestling history, but nothing was more unbelievable than Slaughter's victory—even if Randy Savage and Sensational Sherri were key factors.

"Slaughter is about 20 years past his prime, if he ever had a prime to begin with, and then he goes out and wins a world title," Zbyszko said. "They must have some pretty sorry wrestlers in the WWF."

Zbyszko, in fact, used Slaughter's victory to take a shot at two-time former WWF World champion Bruno Sammartino.

"Now we know who the *real* 'Living Legend' is," Zbyszko cackled. "Let's face it, Slaughter exposed the WWF. Sammartino was no legend. He was just a secondrate champion. Now the whole world knows that I am the *true* 'Living Legend' and the *real* champion of the world, even if those skunks from the AWA decided to take away my title."

Zbyszko refused to give credit to Slaughter, Savage, or Sherri. Instead, he complimented Slaughter's manager, Gen. Adnan.

(Continued on page 56)



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# By Eddie Ellner

[The opinions expressed in "The Insider" are those of Eddie Ellner alone, and do not necessarily represent the opinions of anyone else on the staff of this magazine.]

## NEWS ITEM: And The Medal Of Valor Goes To ...

Ric Flair pins Sting. Sgt. Slaughter pins The Ultimate Warrior. Hulk Hogan wins the Royal Rumble. Or did the real heroism this month come from other quarters, as spaghetti-bending scion David Sammartino continues his father's ancient battles against Ivan Koloff and Larry Zbyszko? I mean, really, is this the silliest thing you have ever heard? Koloff was described as a grizzly veteran when he defeated Bruno 20 years ago! Yet, a few weeks ago, PWI Weekly gave Junior Bruno's valiant efforts a much-coveted endorsement: a mention in its "yay" column.

"... though he is very much his own man," wrote a nameless editor, smartly protecting his identity, "[David] is willing to take on the wrestlers who gave his father a hard time and continue to insult the family name."

Well, why the heck not? It's a lot easier taking wheezing old-timers like Koloff to the mat than it is wrestling men his own age. I say to David Sammartino: Why stop with your father? I'm sure your grandfather, who, according to local Pittsburgh legend, was a quick-tempered and quick-fisted Italian fireball, must have a few



If David Sammartino insists on battling his father's old foe, Ivan Koloff, then he may as well take on some of his *grandfather's* ancient rivals, suggests Eddie Eliner.

feuds left percolating since the turn of the century. Why, I'll bet there are 85-year-olds with wine dribbling down their chins in cafes all over Abruzzi, Italy, defaming the proud Sammartino name this very moment!

C'mon, David, you've seen all the *Godfather* flicks. It's never too late to play the avenger—especially when you're half the age of the avengee. And elsewhere in this issue, Inside Wrestling devotes a whole feature story to the thing!

Brecch!

### NEWS ITEM: War In The Gulf

All the exciting title changes notwithstanding, of course we realize the real heroes all live 6,000 miles due east from New York. Wars have a habit of rendering all (Continued on page 58)

## BACK ISSUES OF



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February 1983/COLOR PINUP: Ivan Putski. Rhodes vs. Garvin, Snuka, Su-per Destroyer, Bockwinkel, Funk.

April 1983/COLOR PINUP: Superstar Graham. Mil Mascaras, Valentine, Orndorff, Hart.

June 1983/COLOR PINUP: Cowboy Bob Orton. Rick Martel, Von Erich, Slaughter, Muraco.

July 1983/COLOR PINUP: Ivan Koloff. Tommy Rich, Patera, Von Erich, Snuka.

August 1983/COLOR PINUP: Larry Zbyszko. Roddy Piper, Sullivan, Zbyszko, Von Erich, Wrestling II.

November 1983/COLOR PINUP: Roddy Piper. Harley Race, Santana, Mascaras, Ellering, Valiant, Race.

December 1983/COLOR PINUP: Wahoo McDaniel. Dusty Rhodes, Hayes, Steamboat, Hansen, DiBiase

January 1984/COLOR PINUP: Harley Race. Rick Martel, Snuka, Freebirds, Dillon, Sawyer.

February 1984/COLOR PINUP: Jim Garvin & Sunshine. Greg Valentine, Super Destroyer, Race, Sawyer, Abdullah.

June 1984/COLOR PINUP: Dick Slater. Ted DiBiase, Wrestling II, Magnum T.A., Patera, Hogan.

July 1984/COLOR PINUP: Paul Eller-ing. Jimmy Vallant, JYD, Fab Ones, Gagne, Windham.

August 1984/COLOR PINUP: Stan Hansen. Jerry Lawler, Sullivan, Slaughter, Blackwell & Patera, Flair.

October 1984/COLOR PINUP: Billy Jack. Kerry Von Erich, Martel, Blan-chard, Fabulous Blonds, Armstrong.

November 1984/COLOR PINUP: Rick Martel. Sgt. Slaughter, Von Erich, Road Warriors, Windham, Rotundo.

January 1985/COLOR PINUP: Tito Santana. Road Warriors, Billy Jack, Hayes, 1984 fan ballot.

February 1985/COLOR PINUP: Magnum T.A. Rick Martel, Hogan, Backlund, Ellering.

April 1985/COLOR PINUP: Ronnie Garvin, Jimmy Snuka, Warriors, Gordy,

June 1985/COLOR PINUP: Barry Windham. Dusty Rhodes, Slaughter, Hogan, Von Erich, T.A.

September 1985/COLOR PINUP: Junkyard Dog. Magnum T.A, Von Erich, Hogan, AWA scouting reports.

October 1985/COLOR PINUP: Chris Adams. Rick Steamboat, Warriors, Nikita, WWF scouting reports

November 1985/COLOR PINUP: Randy Savage. Ric Flair, Slaughter, Steamboat, World Class scouting reports.

December 1985/COLOR PINUP: Jesse Ventura. Great American Bash, Von Erich, Orndorff, Williams & DiBiase.

January 1986/COLOR PINUP: Hack-saw Duggan. Hulk Hogan, T.A., Brody. February 1986/COLOR PINUP: Nikita Koloff, Mike Von Erich, Warriors, San-tana, Taylor, Barbarian, Race.

April 1986/COLOR PINUP: Ric Flair. Wendi Richter, Adams & Hernandez, Dusty & Warriors vs. Flair & Andersons.

May 1986/COLOR PINUP: Rick Steamboat. Road Warriors, Humongous, Bulldogs, Hansen vs. Martel.

June 1986/COLOR PINUP: Kevin Von Erich. Hulk Hogan, Adams, Duggan, Scott Hall.

July 1986/COLOR PINUP: King Kong Bundy. R & R Express, Hall and Hennig, Ventura, Warriors.

August 1986/COLOR PINUP: Dusty Rhodes. Randy Savage, Lugar vs. Race, Blanchard vs. Flair, Rude.

October 1986/COLOR PINUP: John Studd. Nikita Koloff, Savage vs. Bundy, Landell, Flair vs. Lugar, Simpson.

November 1986/COLOR PINUP: Baby Doll. British Bulldogs, Von Erich, Han-sen, Gordy, Flair-Tully-Arn-Ole.

January 1987/COLOR PINUP: Fabulous Freebirds. Roddy Piper, Nikita vs. T.A., Snuka, Simpson.

February 1987/COLOR PINUP: Savage & Elizabeth, UWF Tournament, T.A., Baby Doll, Hogan vs. Orndorff.

May 1987/COLOR PINUP: Steve Williams. Andre-Hogan, UWF Tourny, Al-bano, Cornette, Dynamite Kid, Kerry.

June 1987/COLOR PINUP: Hulk Hogan. Magnum T.A., Can-Ams, Warriors, Freebirds, Hall.

July 1987/COLOR PINUP: Midnight Rockers. Steamboat-Savage, Luger, Duggan, Garvins, Sting.

City \_

August 1987/COLOR PINUP: Jim Garvin & Precious. Hogan-Andre, Warriors, Windham-Flair, Gordy, Bigelow.

October 1987/COLOR PINUP: Ted Di-Biase. Ric Flair, Williams, Rockers, Hogan vs. Steamboat, NWA & WWF.

November 1987/COLOR PINUP: George Steele. Nikita Koloff, Warriors, Harts, Hogan, Windham.

January 1988/COLOR PINUP: The Road Warriors. Ted DiBlase, Flair-Gar-vins, Hogan & Ventura, Zbyszko.

February 1988/COLOR PINUP: Ronnie Garvin. Randy Savage, Garvin-Flair, Von Erichs, Freebirds

April 1988/COLOR PINUP: Rick Martel. Lex Luger, Flair-Garvin, Kerry, Survivor Series, Iron Sheik.

May 1988/COLOR PINUP: Sting. Andre, Valentine-Beefcake, Flair, Cornette,

June 1988/COLOR PINUP: Tully Blanchard. Hulk Hogan, Muraco, Perez, Rockers, Bunkhouse Stampede.

July 1988/COLOR PINUP: Curt Hennig. Hogan vs. Andre, Express vs. Rockers, Beefcake, Perez, Rotundo-Sting.

August 1988/COLOR PINUP: Al Perez. Savage & Hogan, Gilbert-Lawler, Four Horsemen, Kerry Von Erich.

October 1988/COLOR PINUP: Ultimate Warrior. Sting, Savage, Lawler, Williams, Steamboat, Varsity Club.

November 1988/COLOR PINUP: The Midnight Express. Hogan, Rhodes, Express, Powers of Pain.

December 1988/COLOR PINUP: Hacksaw Duggan. Four Horsemen, Brody, Bigelow, Garvin, Precious.

January 1989/COLOR PINUP: Barry Windham. Hogan-Savage-Elizabeth, Warriors, Sting.

February 1989/COLOR PINUP: Jake Roberts, Luger, Hogan-Savage, Kevin Von, Beefcake-Bass.

April 1989/COLOR PINUP: Rick Steiner. Savage, Dangerously, Muraco, Turner, Powers.

June 1989/COLOR PINUP: Rick Steamboat. Hogan vs. Savage, Warriors, Zbyszko, Rhodes.

July 1989/COLOR PINUP: Roddy Piper. Steamboat, Hogan, Paul E., Dream Tournament, Studd, Muraco.

August 1989/COLOR PINUP: Lex Luger. Hogan, Ultimate, Steamboat-Flair, Road Warriors, Rhodes.

October 1989/COLOR PINUP: Rick Rude. Luger vs. Hogan, Snuka, Sting, Lawler vs. Perez, Page.

November 1989/COLOR PINUP: Ric Flair. Rhodes, Steiner, Luger vs. Steam-boat, Ultimate, Fuller-Jarrett.

December 1989/COLOR PINUP: Jimmy Snuka. Luger, Victous, Muta, Sting, Beefcake & Hogan, Tully & Arn.

January 1990/COLOR PINUP: Sid Vicious. Ultimate, Cornette, Ross, Kerry.

February 1990/COLOR PINUP: Bret Hart. Lex Luger, Hogan, Hennig-Beef-cake, Toni Adams, Woman.

April 1990/COLOR PINUP: Dusty Rhodes. Ric Flair, Hennig vs. Hogan, Sting, Rockers, Lawler.

May 1990/COLOR PINUP: The Great Muta. Hulk Hogan, Skyscrapers, R&R Express, Piper, Embry.

June 1990/COLOR PINUP: Sting. Hogan vs. Warrior, R&R Express, Rhodes vs. Savage, Am vs. Sawyer.

July 1990/COLOR PINUP: Rick Martel. Lex Luger, Beefcake, Skyscrapers. Heenan, Saito, referees.

September 1990/PINUP: Rick & Scott Steiner. COLOR FEATURES: Sting, Hogan, Horsemen, Hennig.

October 1990/PINUP: Brutus Beefcake. COLOR FEATURES: Tugboat, Ultimate, Sting, Long, Blanchard-Orndorff.

November 1990/PINUP: Legion of Doom. COLOR FEATURES: Rude-Warrior, Sting beats Flair

December 1990/PINUP: Sting. COLOR FEATURES: Doom, Horsemen, Legion of Doom, Kerry, Slaughter.

January 1991/PINUP: Kerry Von Erich. COLOR FEATURES: WWF vs. NWA, Hogan, Hansen, Sting, Sherri.

February 1991/PINUP: 1991 calendar. COLOR FEATURES: Scott Steiner, Vicious vs. Luger, Rhodes vs. DiBiase.

April 1981/PINUP: Tom Zenk. COLOR FEATURES: Sgt. Slaughter, Hogan & Warrior, Magnum T.A., Lawler-Gilbert.

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# A SIGNMENTER SIGNMENTER

N HIS STATE of the Union address to the nation on January 29, President Bush attempted to pilot America toward her moral destiny: "If you've got a hammer, find a nail. If you're not hungry, not lonely, not in trouble, seek out someone who is. Join the community of conscience."

Apparently, it was by using this presidential mandate that The Ultimate Warrior—a man with huge muscles—sought the company of a woman without—Sensational Sherri—and decided the moral thing would be to gorilla-press her into unconsciousness and drop her head-first to the canvas—during a cage match!

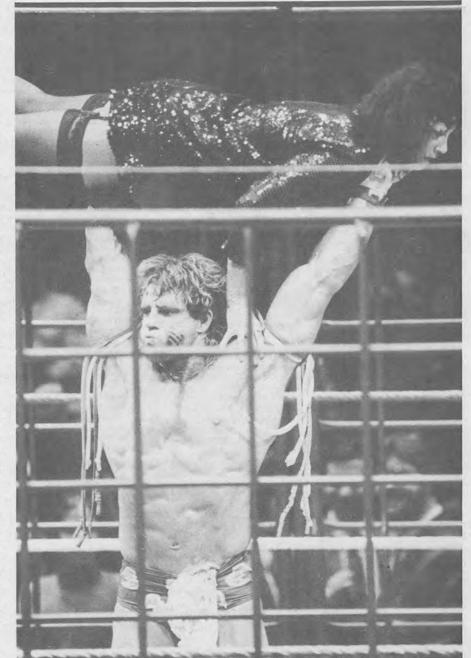
Pray for the Union, friends, it is in real peril.

Was Ultimate Warrior justified in attacking Sensational Sherri?

Here are the reactions of six fans to whom I posed this question following the card at Madison Square Garden, at which the above-mentioned debacle took place:

Fan #1: "No question about it. A man can take only so much. It's not as if Sherri just screamed and cursed at him. This wasn't mental torment, she physically interfered in the match! Once she steps over that line, she's fair game like anyone else."

Fan #2: "Sensational Sherri is no damsel in distress. This isn't Miss Elizabeth or Missy Hyatt we're talking about. Put Sherri in the ring against some men prelim (Continued on page 60)



Sensational Sherri may constantly interfere in The Ultimate Warrior's matches, but does that justify Warrior gorilla-pressing and slamming her to the mat?

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## WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Do you have a favorite wrestler who has left your area? Are you wondering where he is today? Then this special column is just for you. Each month we will update the whereabouts of four current or former wrestlers



## "BULLDOG" BOB BROWN

Now a grizzled 22year veteran, the popular Brown continues to compete for the CNWA and other independent organizations in Canada. The former Central States champion has been helping young Mega

Mask in his battles against Jerry Morrow and manager Abdul Wizel. "For years, Wizel has been trying to get me out of Canada," barked Brown. "That idiot should know by now I'm one dog who still has plenty of bite!"



## BUTCHER BRANNIGAN

This huge rulebreaker, who enjoyed a reign of terror during the '70s, has mellowed considerably since his heyday. Now retired, Brannigan serves as an art instructor and corrections officer at Rahway

State Prison in Rahway, New Jersey. The burly 300-pounder now says he regrets his years of cheating in the ring. "Law and order is the only way to go," says Brannigan now. "That's what I try to show the inmates here."



## MANNY FERNANDEZ

In addition to competing in several independent federations, the "Ragin' Bull" has an interesting sideline: Fernandez is now serving as assistant wrestling coach at Lincoln High School in San Jose, California.

"I'm working under my old coach, Nick Buzolich," said Fernandez. "He coached me to the California state championship, and now I'm doing the same for a real great group of kids. We're undefeated!"



## **EDDIE GILBERT**

"Hot Stuff" wants it known that it was not The Fabulous Ones that caused him to leave the USWA. "I just got sick and tired of how the officials, particularly Eddie Marlin, always treated me there," said the former Southern champion.

Recently, the second-generation star accepted a contract to compete in independent organizations throughout Canada. "I'm about to set the Great White North on fire!" Gilbert predicted.

## INSIDE WRESTLING

## **B. BRIAN BLAIR**

178

## CAPSULE PROFILE

D RIAN BLAIR WAS an all-state 6 football player and state wrestling champion in high school ("I was into all sports") ... Played football at the University of Louisville before stepping into the squared circle ("I could have gone into football, but I chose the sport I loved best") ... Made his pro debut on June 1, 1977, in Tampa, Florida, pinning Mike Hammer ("I'll never forget what it was like when the referee raised my arm in the air") ... King Curtis laukea taught him a variation of the cobra sleeperhold ("It added a whole new dimension to my game") ... Competed around the country, winning the Central States and Americas title, and the Americas tag team title ("The experience I gained was invaluable") ... Captured the Florida title from Jim Garvin in Orlando on July 11, 1982 ("That's when I really felt like I had made it") ... Lost the belt to Bruiser Brody on August 23 in West Palm Beach ... After a rematch the next day, Brody was stripped of the belt because the bout had become excessively violent ("I splintered a chair over his head just to defend myself!") ... Competed in the Georgia area for several months ... In 1983, began his first tour of the WWF ... One of his WWF highlights was winning a major

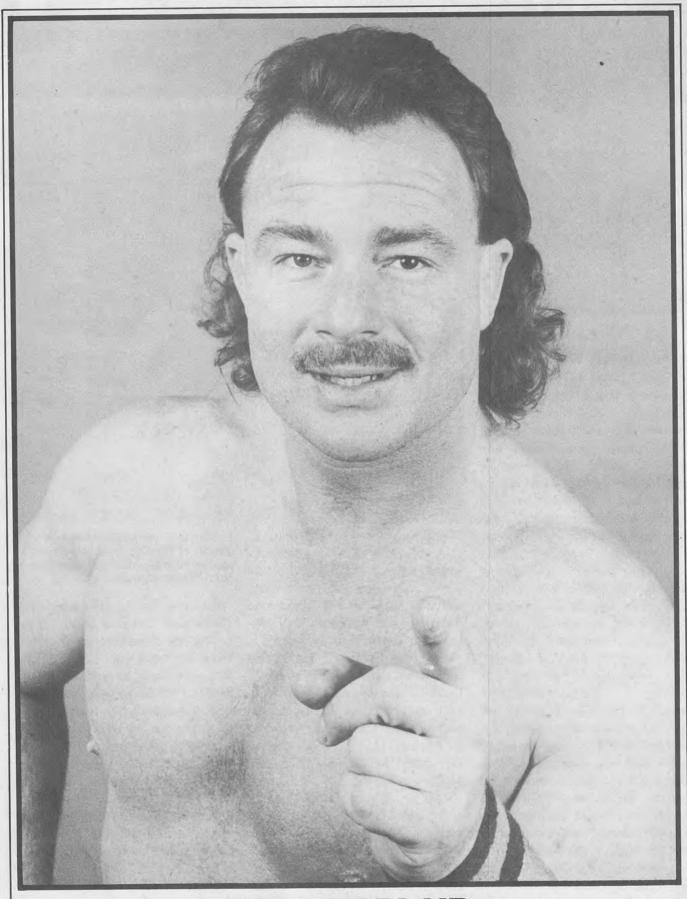


was winning a major battle royal in Poughkeepsie, New York ('That was great because it was televised nationwide") ... Feuded with David Shultz and Mike Sharpe in 1984 ("Shultz, in particular, was super-nasty") ... Returned to Florida and, on January 6, 1985, began his second Florida title reign with a victory over Jesse Barr in Orlando ("Barr had made some insulting comments about the work I do with kids") ... Lost to Barr in Tampa on February 12 ... Set his sights on the area's top championship, the Southern title held by Rick Rude ("Rude wasn't what I'd call a worthy champion") ... Won the belt from Rude on April 10 in Tampa ("You can't imagine how satisfying that was") ... That title reign was ended by Hercules Hernandez in Orlando on May 26 ... In 1986, Blair returned to the WWF, where he and Iim Brunzell be-

B. Brian Blair, previously known best as a member of The Killer Bees, currently competes in the UWF, where he's engaged in a hot feud with "Cowboy" Bob Orton.

came known as The Killer Bees ("We clicked from the word go") ... Soon became top contenders for the WWF World tag team title ... For a time, they wore masks to confuse their opponents ("We have similar builds, so it worked beautifully") ... After a few years, the duo drifted apart ... Blair returned to prominence in 1990 in the newly formed UWF, where he brought a valet, Honey ("It's dangerous around here; I needed someone I could trust to keep an eye on my back") ... Presently in a feud with Bob Orton that picked up in intensity after Orton, managed by John Tolos, gave Honey a headbutt ("Orton will pay, and now that I've got Capt. Lou Albano in my corner, Tolos will pay, too!")

## **CAPSULE PROFILE PINUP**



**B. BRIAN BLAIR** 

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## #1 GREAT AMERICAN BASH '88

THE PRICE FOR FREEDOM

The controversial Bash tour heats up as Ric Flair & Lex Luger go at it in Baltimore. Also Rhodes vs. Windham for U.S. title; triple cage "Tower of Doom" featuring Russian Assassin I, Ivan Koloff, Perez, Rotundo, & Sullivan vs. Road Warriors, Garvins & Williams; Fantastics vs. Midnights; Blanchard & Anderson vs. Nikita Koloff & Sting.

## \$39.95/126 min./Turner

### #4 CAPITAL COMBAT '90

The NWA's greatest wrestlers converge in Washington D.C., for a Congress of Capital Combat! Sting vs. Robocop make a special appearance to watch six-time champ Ric Flair & Lex Luger in a steel cage for the Championship. Aso: The Steiners vs. Doom; Fly'n Brian & Z-Man vs. Midnight Express, Rock 'n Roll's etc.

### \$39.95@120min/Turner

## #8 WRESTLING CLASSICS VOL. 1 new!!!

Pro wrestling the way it was! Buddy "Nature boy" Rogers vs. Pat O'Connor in the 1961 classic bout. Antonino Rocca & Miguel Perez vs. Skull Murphy & Karl Von Hess. June Byers vs. Betty Hawkins. Dick the Bruiser vs. Pepper Gomez & more!

## \$14.95/@60 min.

### #2 GREAT AMERICAN BASH '89

THE GLORY DAYS

NWA champ Ric Flair comes back from a broken neck to wrestle former champ Terry Funk, & U.S. champ Lex Luger battles Rick Steamboat. Also: Sting vs. Muta; War Games; a battle of wits turns to a battle of fists when Paul E. Dangerously rumbles with Jim Cornette; plus much more!

### \$39.95/120 min./Turner

### **#5 HALLOWEEN HAVOC '89**

A brutal night of devilish destruction! Ric Flair wants to permanately settle the score against Terry Funk. Together with Flair's powerhouse partner, Sting, the two great heavyweight pros treat Funk & The Great Muta to some monstrous portions of punishment! Also: Lex Luger, Thr Road Warriors, The Samoan Swat Team, The Skyscrapers, The Freebirds and many more!

### \$39.95/125 min./Turner

## #9 WRESTLING CLASSICS VOL. 2 new!!!

Gorgeous George vs. Jesse James. Antonino Rocca vs. Johnny Valentine. Six-man Tag Team Match: The Fabulous Kangaroos & Dr. Jerry Graham vs. Antonino Rocca, Miguel Perez & Ricki Starr. Killer Kowalski vs.Edouard Carpentier

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## \$14.95/@60 min.

### #3GREAT AMERICAN BASH '90

**NEW REVOLUTION** 

Sting, back in action in a wrestling revolution as the greatest stars from the NWA battle the new young aggressors! Sting in a great comeback against Ric Flair for the championship. Also: Doom vs. Rock 'n Roll Express, Mean Mark vs. Lex Luger, Southern Boys, etc.

### \$39.95/125 min/Turner

## #6 HALLOWEEN HAVOC '90

TERROR RULES THE RING In a terrorizing bout, Sting defends his title against Sid Vicious. Ric Flair teams up with Arn Anderson to attemp to dethrone Doom for the World Tag Team title. Lex Luger & Stan Hansen pound each other for the U.S. Championship title. In a destructive match for the U.S. Tag Team title: Steiner Brothers vs. Nasty Boys!

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## #10 WRESTLING CLASSICS VOL. 3 new!!!

Buddy Rogers, Handsome Johnny Barend & Magnificent Maurice vs. Bobo Brazil, "Calypso Kid" Dory Dixon & Sailor Art Thomas, Tolos Brothers vs. Bob Nador & Chet Wallick, Ed Carpentier vs. Skull Murphy, Yukon Eric vs. Fritz Von Erich, Bulldog Brower vs. Bearcat Wright & more!

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## #7 STARRCADE '90 COLLISION COURSE new!!!

Sting vs. The Black Scorpion! Who will prove victorious in the first ever Tag Team Championship of the Universe, featuring Tag Teams from around the globe going to a face to face in a tournament of universal impact! Can Lex Luger hold on to the U.S. heavyweight belt when he battle Stan Hansen? Also: Doom vs. Ric Flair &Arn Anderson.

### \$39.95/125 min./Turner

## #11 WRESTLING CLASSICS VOL. 4 new!!!

The Fabulous Kangaroos vs Moose Cholak & Mighty Atlas, Bruno Sammartino vs. Hans Schmidt, Dr. Jerry & Eddie Graham vs. Antonino Rocca & Miguel Perez, Skull Murphy & Brute Bernard vs. The Bavarian Boys, Bobo Brazil vs. Ski Hi Lee.

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## BATON ROUGE, LA By Sean Fluharty



KAMALA vs. SAM HOUSTON



Outweighing his opponent by nearly 150 pounds, Kamala took early control, hammering Houston with vicious chops to the head and chest. Houston, however, fought back with some hard right hands that stunned the Ugandan giant. Houston attempted a bulldog, but Kamala blocked the attempt. After Kamala gave Houston a spinecrusher, he crushed him with a big splash and gained the three-count.

OTHER BOUTS: Brad & Bart Batten defeated Taras Bulba & Ken Massey ... The L-P Connection beat Jimmy Valentine & Thunder ... Bob Orton and The Executioner battled to a double-countout.

## MILWAUKEE, WI By Andy Abrahamson



SGT. SLAUGHTER vs. HACKSAW DUGGAN



Both men went at each other with savage ferocity. Duggan was the first to get the upper hand, bashing Slaughter's head into the turnbuckle 10 consecutive times. After Gen. Adnan interfered, Slaughter brutalized Duggan, but Hacksaw soon came back. Duggan was about to score the pin when Adnan interfered again. As Duggan and Adnan argued, Slaughter slammed Hacksaw in the stomach with Duggan's 2 x 4. As Duggan doubled over in pain, Slaughter pinned him.

OTHER BOUTS: The Ultimate Warrior defeated Randy Savage ... Bret Hart & Davey Boy Smith beat Demolition ... Kerry Von Erich defeated Curt Hennig by disqualification ... Davey Boy Smith pinned Warlord ... Jimmy Snuka pinned Buddy Rose ... Koko B. Ware defeated Black Bart.

## JACKSONVILLE, FL By Claire Norvill



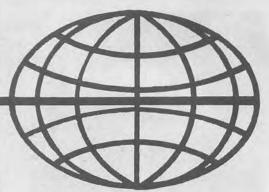
BOBBY EATON vs. TOM ZENK



Both men dazzled the crowd with their agility and high-flying abilities. The fans were in a awe of the pace both wrestlers maintained and appeared to be rooting more for the action than for a particular wrestler. Zenk made one serious mistake and it cost him dearly: The former TV champ tossed Eaton over the top rope and was immediately disqualified.

OTHER BOUTS: Brad Armstrong pinned Bill Irwin ... Tim Horner pinned Moondog Rex ... Barry Windham & Arn Anderson beat NWA World tag team champions Doom by disqualification ... NWA World champion Ric Flair pinned Sting.

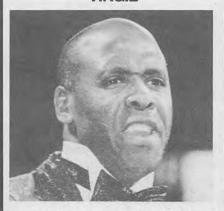
# WRESTLING CAPITALS



## DAYTON, OH By Brian Halk



TITO SANTANA vs. VIRGIL



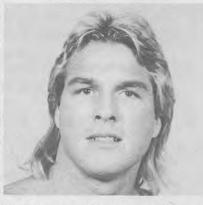
The match started out scientifically, and Virgil seemed to be upset by his inability to outwrestle the veteran Santana. Eventually, he wore down Santana with a slam and several elbowsmashes, but quickly became overconfident. Santana took advantage of this and finished off Virgil with a flying forearm. Despite losing, Virgil shook hands with Santana as the fans cheered.

OTHER BOUTS: Hulk Hogan beat Earthquake . . . Kerry Von Erich defeated Curt Hennig by disqualification . . . The Barbarian defeated Saba Simba . . . The Hart Foundation beat Power & Glory . . . Jake Roberts defeated Rick Martel . . . Dustin Rhodes pinned Buddy Rose . . . Tugboat beat Dino Bravo.

## CHARLESTON, WV By Phil Nicholas



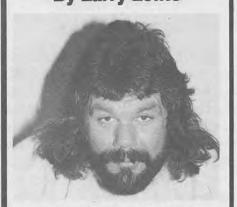
MICHAEL WALL STREET vs. TERRY TAYLOR



Wall Street and Taylor are both exceptionally skilled technicians, and they displayed their considerable abilities at the Civic Center. Whenever Wall Street executed an outstanding maneuver, Taylor had a countermove for it. Near the end of the match it appeared as though Taylor had Wall Street in trouble, but Wall Street stunned Taylor with a surprise rollup for the pinfall victory.

OTHER BOUTS: Allen Iron Eagle beat Moondog Rex...Junkyard Dog defeated The Minotaur...The Southern Boys beat The Master Blasters...Rick & Scott Steiner defeated The Freebirds...Sting beat Ric Flair by disqualification.

## **NEW YORK, NY By Larry Lefko**



STEVE WILLIAMS vs.
PAUL ORNDORFF



Orndorff took the initiative and charged right after "Dr. Death" at the outset, running Williams' head into the ringpost and timekeeper's table and causing him to bleed. When they returned to the ring, Williams responded with a brutal attack that soon saw Orndorff bleeding, too. The match quickly went out of control, forcing referee Jesse Hernandez to disqualify both men. It took nearly a dozen wrestlers to separate them in a postmatch brawl.

OTHER BOUTS: Cactus Jack defeated Mike Williams by countout . . . lceman Parsons pinned Col. DeBeers . . . David Sammartino defeated Ivan Koloff by countout . . . Bob Orton beat B. Brian Blair by disqualification . . . The Power Twins beat Chris Michaels & Sonny Blaze.



# matt Philipson Brock's Brock's Alling Shall Brock's Chilarent and the second se

MIAMI, FL: Where else? On January 19, there was only one place in the world to be (unless you're one of our brave fighting men or women in the Persian Gulf), and that was the Miami Arena, right smack in the middle of this stinking, steaming pit known as Miami. You tourists who have been here on vacation don't know the real story of this town. Hang out on the beaches or at the fancy hotels and everything looks just dandy. Head downtown and a different story emerges. Walk one block



SGT. SLAUGHTER

from Miami Arena and you're practically in the middle of a battle zone. Still, it was a pretty good spot for the Royal Rumble. Hulk Hogan won the thing, but that wasn't the story. The story, of course, was that Sgt. Slaughter, that treasonous blot of slime, defeated The Ultimate Warrior for the WWF World title. Of course, Slaughter had plenty of help from Randy Savage and Sensational Sherri, both of whom should be banned for life from the sport. Makes me sick. And it's embarrassing to the WWF that Slaughter, a man far past his prime, is wearing the gold. Slaughter, of course, just doesn't care. He has obviously lost all sense of pride, all sense of feeling for his country, everything he had that made him one of the finer men in the sport. I'd spit in his face, but I'd probably get attacked by Savage and Sherri. It's clear as glass: Somebody's gonna have to take care of Slaughter before this whole damn thing gets out of hand. I nominate Hulk Hogan.

TAMPA, FL: Let it be know that the Sportatorium, site of some of the greatest moments in wrestling history, is now a rock club. No more wrestling here at the famed arena, which helped give Dusty Rhodes and Barry Windham a national reputation, where Jack and Jerry Brisco and Hulk Hogan made their debuts. Instead, it's earsplitting rock 'n' roll, as if this world needed another rock club. Maybe this isn't like the day they knocked down Ebbets Field, but it's close. Awfully close. I wonder what Gordon Solie thinks about this. Well, this is exactly what memories are for. I'll remember the long benches that the fans sat on, the ringside brawls, the way the fans always seemed to become part of the match. It wasn't the snazziest building in the world, but it had plenty of character. Unfortunately, most spanking-new arenas are lacking in exactly that. Sure, there are great sight lines and terrific restaurants and nine choices of beer, but they're as sterile as an operating room. Losing the Sportatorium is like having to throw out a pair of comfortable old shoes. And I hate throwing out a good pair of worn-in loafers.

Harder than nails, veteran wrestling reporter Matt Brock has logged more miles covering wrestling than any other journalist. Every month Matt will travel to the sport's hotbeds, reporting everything he sees without fear or favor

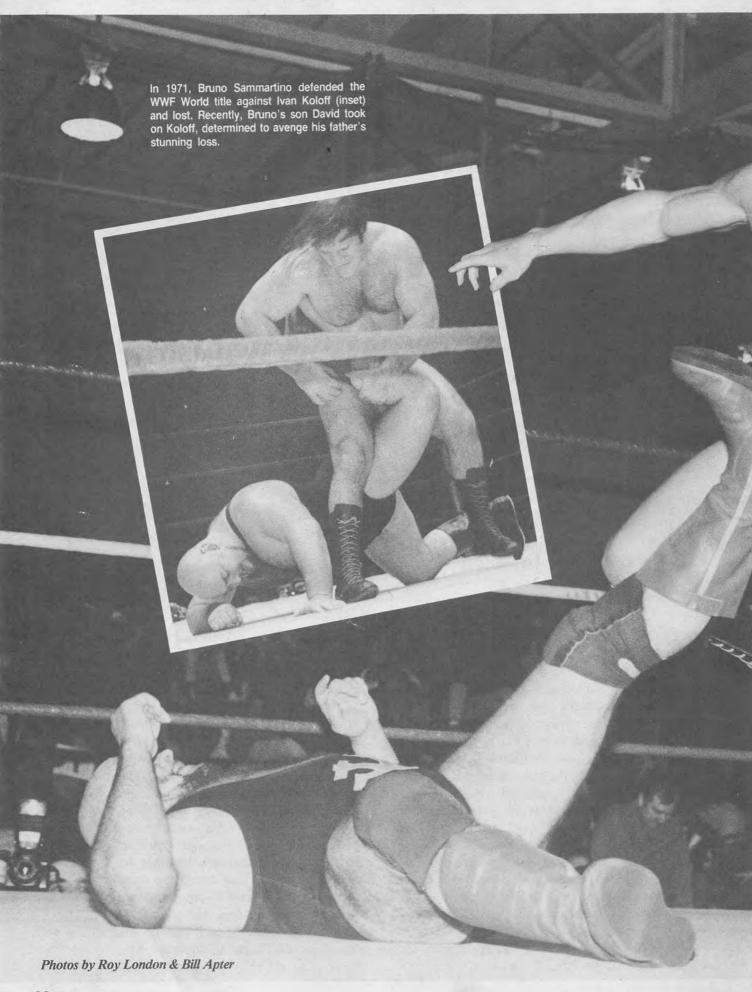


**TONI ADAMS VS. JEANNIE** 

HOUSTON, TX: So where do you go for wrestling in the state of Texas? Well, you can try the Unicorn Ballroom in Houston. Get this bit of logic: They turn a wrestling arena into a nightclub, then they turn a ballroom into a wrestling arena. Beats me. In 30 years on this beat, I still can't figure most things out. Anyway, this really isn't the best place to go for a night of wrestling. Names like Dr. Kirk Vain, Wichita Willie, and Flyin' Frankie don't exactly get the blood rushing. Then again, it's good that somebody's keeping this sport alive in Texas; I keep hearing rumors about the Jeannie Clark-Toni Adams feud brewing up again. Ugh! Wrestling and Texas have a long history together. This state has always supported wrestling. Then, of course, the recession came along, and Texas has been hit hard. Let's hope Texas and wrestling in Texas both come back. The sport needs this big little corner of the country.

LONDON, ENGLAND: The WWF recently announced its "Tour De Force," a series of cards in the

United Kingdom, so Saks decided to send me out here to get the scoop. Here's the scoop: The sports fans out here care more about football (that's soccer to you and me), cricket, and horse racing than anything else, but they're still willing to hand over a few bucks to watch Hulk Hogan wrestle. They know all about Hulkamania, "Mr. Perfect," and, unfortunately, Brother Love. There's been plenty of wrestling here before, and they get the WWF on TV, but the WWF, of course, is really a different story. Anyway, there's major interest in the Tour de Force. One question, though: Why did the WWF give a French name to a tour of England? Makes no sense. Lots of things make no sense, like why the bars here close for a spell in the middle of the afternoon, and why the English like drinking warm beer and eating cold food. The English never made much sense to me, not even during WWII. Even The British Bulldogs used to confuse the hell out of me. Anyway, I may be back here on April 24 for Act One of the WWF's tour of the United Kingdom. London Arena is the place. Reserve your tickets now.





## David Sammartino Pins Ivan Koloff:

# "IT WAS AN ANNIVERSARY GIFT FOR MY DAD!"

Twenty years have passed since Bruno Sammartino was upset by Ivan Koloff for the WWF World title, but the "Russian Bear" has never let the world forget that match. Bruno has long since retired, but his son, David, soundly defeated the brutal veteran as a way of honoring the "Living Legend"

"I won't fail again. I can't fail again. I owe my father at least that much."

—David Sammartino

### By Bob Smith

ATCH TIME WAS quickly approaching, and the tension was clearly evident on David Sammartino's face. Usually loose and jovial before his bouts, the second-generation star was unusually tense, as if he was about to wrestle

the most important bout of his career.

In many ways, he was. Sammartino was scheduled to meet Larry Zbyszko, the man who had brutally attacked David's father—two-time former WWF World champion Bruno Sammartino—in 1980, the same year David broke into the sport. Although most people acknowledge that Bruno won the lengthy feud that followed, David has always considered Zbyszko a bit of unfinished family business.

It looked as if fate was about to renew the Sammartino-Zbyszko war. Both Zbyszko and David signed contracts to compete in the new Universal Wrestling Federation. When David found out Zbyszko was available for a match, he immediately contacted UWF promoters to sign a January 9 bout at New York's Penta Hotel.

But the feud was halted before it had a chance to resume. UWF promoter Herb Abrams entered the locker room and informed Sammartino that Zbyszko had missed a travel connection and was not going to make it.

"So what do I do now?" said Sammartino, clearly frustrated by the missed opportunity. "I need somebody to wrestle, Herb. Who else is available?"

"Well, there aren't too many men ready to fill that spot," said the exasperated Abrams. "There's Chris Michaels, Mike Durham, Ivan Koloff..."

David's eyes glistened at the very mention of Koloff's name. Abrams knew he had a match. Minutes later, he returned with a contract signed by Koloff. David added his name, and the pact was made official.

For David, it was a chance to avenge one of the greatest upsets in wrestling history. On January 18, 1971, at New York's Madison Square Garden, Koloff defeated Bruno Sammartino. The defeat ended the "Living Legend's" first title reign, which had lasted more than  $7\frac{1}{2}$  years.

"I had become accustomed to my father winning all the time," recalled David, who was 11 years old at the time. "It was a shock when he finally lost that belt. Actually, I could accept my dad beating beaten, but the way Koloff bragged and boasted about it afterward, the ugly slurs he used . . . I never forgave—and will never forgive—Koloff for doing that."

Even after 20 years, Koloff



David hammerlocks Koloff (above) and attempts to flip out of the "Russian Bear's" headscissors (below). Koloff boasted that he'd dominate the younger Sammartino.



hasn't stopped the verbal assault. In the locker room across the hall, Koloff regaled his rulebreaking companions with remembrances of the greatest moment of his career.

"I beat Bruno with ease," Koloff claimed with a hearty laugh. "He was just another feeble American trying to overpower the great 'Russian Bear." Now, I have his punk son to contend with. Good deal. I will prove to these ignorant American fans that I could wipe the mat with Bruno 20 years ago, and I can still do the same with his offspring today."

Koloff obviously has a selective memory. He seems to have forgotten that he had spent years losing title matches to Sammartino before he was finally able to beat him. Even on the night he won, he did not "wipe the mat" with Bruno. And he would not do so to Bruno's son.

At the outset of the match, David tried to wrestle scientifically, using armlocks and leglocks to immobilize the 22-year veteran. But when Koloff brought the battle outside the ring, the match degenerated into a brawl. After rocking Koloff with a series of punches, Sammartino returned to the ring and scored a countout victory.

David, however, wasn't happy with the decision. He kept staring at ringside, where Bruno Sammartino was providing color commentary for the bout. Deep inside, he

(Continued on page 62)

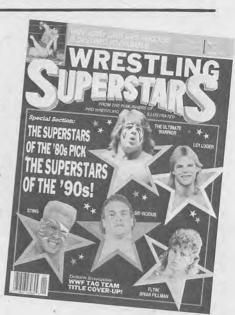
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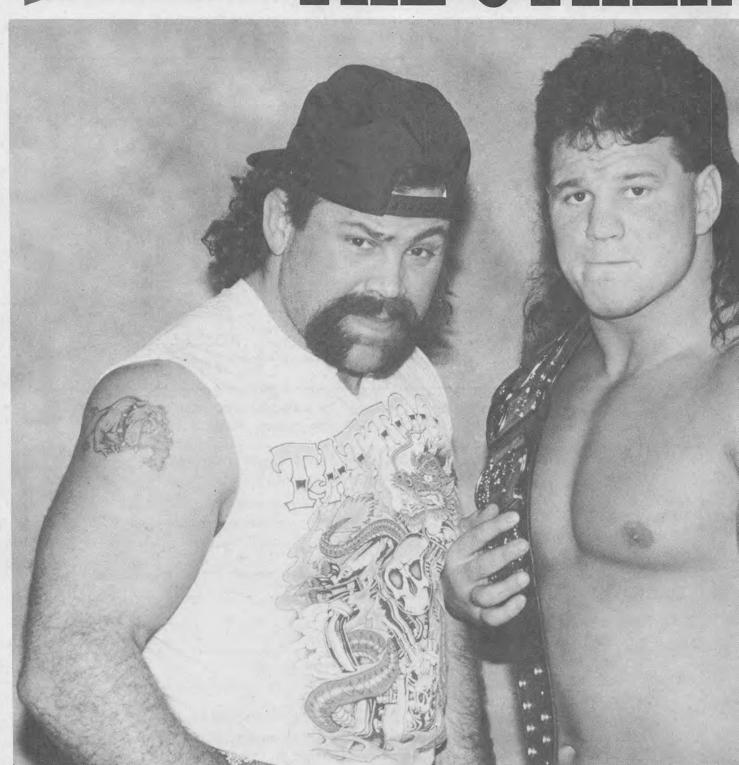
- Four issues per year of Wrestling 91, the magazine "For Today's Wrestling Fan." With its in-depth stories and unique columns, Wrestling 91 has earned a reputation as one of the classiest wrestling magazines ever.
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# The Steiners IF ONE WINS The Steiners IF ONE WINS Secret Pact: THE OTHER



## THE WORLD TITLE, CETS A SHOT



If either Rick or Scott Steiner manages to dethrone Ric Flair, a brotherly pact guarantees a title shot to the other. It would mean some terrific wrestling, but would it also spell the end of this dominant tag team?

By Kostya Kennedy

THIS IS A story of two Steiners and a single NWA World title.

Rick and Scott Steiner are the U.S. tag team champions and, arguably, the most popular team in the entire sport. They win spectacularly and convincingly. They win together and raise their arms jointly in victory.

Yet the Steiners have another dimension to their careers. They are both superb tag team grapplers, but they both want Ric Flair's World heavyweight belt.

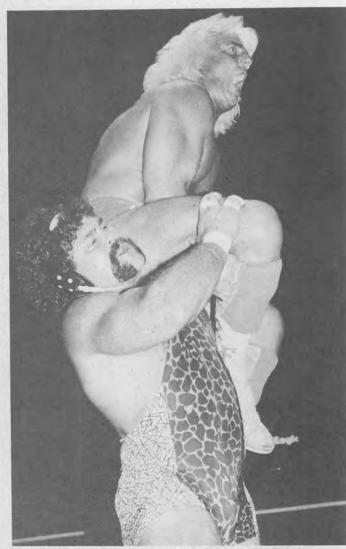
And they know it poses something of a dilemma.

If one of these loyal brothers should seize the NWA belt from around Ric Flair's waist, he alone will be champion. The other would bathe in the victory, but only vicariously. The World belt isn't wide enough to encompass them both.

That is why the pact was drawn.

One day in mid-January, Scott Steiner, fresh off a training session for his Clash of the Champions XIV matchup with Flair, let the news slip.

"Tm so pumped up to beat Flair," Scott said to a companion that day. "Once I get that title, I'm going to hold on to it for a long, long time—unless Rick beats me. He's the only one who might have a chance."



Rick Steiner has battled NWA World champion Ric Flair in singles matches. So has Scott Steiner. Both brothers want that belt as much as they want tag team success. They can't have both.



Rick has given Flair tense moments (above). He definitely has the skills to win the World championship, as does Scott, who demonstrates his knowledge on Ron Simmons (below).



Scott's training partner thought it was an acknowledgement of Flair's seemingly infinite ability to bounce back from adversity. "Ric—you mean Flair, right?"

Scott laughed and told the partner he meant *Rick*, not Ric.

"You mean you'd be willing to fight your own brother for the belt?"

"Willing to? I'd have to," Scott laughed. "We made a pact. Whoever wins it first has to give the other one a title shot, and pretty quickly, too."

"What made you ever devise such a crazy pact like that?" the training partner asked incredulously. "I don't understand what you're trying to do!"

"It's just a friendly, competitive commitment between two brothers," Scott responded. "It'll bring back the good old days when we used to scuffle in the backyard. It'll be fun!"

But these are not the good old days. And what they're scuffling for is a little more important than whatever inspired them to mischief as kids. The whole world watched when Scott challenged, and nearly beat, Ric Flair at Clash XIV. There will be more title matches to come for Scott, and for Rick, too. And, now, when the Steiners get their title shots, each match will now have a subplot within it. Because a Steiner victory means more than a title change. It means putting brotherly love on the line. It means the possibility of placing a jewelstudded belt between two siblings.

There may well come the time when each half of this great team emerges from his own corner, with his sights set on pinning his brother's shoulders to the mat. It will be a time to decide what comes first: professional pride or familial love. Combining the two will not be an option. These wrestlers always wrestle to win. If the pact is carried out, we can expect a Steiner battle defined by intensity and pain.

"It's a little bit scary," said NWA expert Donald Wayne. "Most fans wouldn't know whom to root for. The Steiners are as loved as they are because of what they do as a team. Choosing between them would be al-

most impossible for most people."

Wayne went on to describe a dilemma that many fans of the Steiners now face:

"I have to question whether most people actually want Rick or Scott to win the title from Flair. Of course, most people would rather have one of them wear the belt, but just think of what the pact would do to the Steiners as a team. It could ruin them forever."

But the pact is in place and may well come to fruition. Flair only got to be a seven-time champion by *losing* 

the belt six times. And even with Sting, El Gigante, Lex Luger, and a host of other contenders eyeing Flair's midsection, each Steiner has a legitimate shot at the title.

Tag teaming keeps both wrestlers in outstanding shape. Scott seems to gain





Technically superb, the Steiners are also excellent brawlers, as Flair (above) and his Horseman cohort Arn Anderson (left) learn. Bobby Eaton couldn't stand up to Scott the night the Steiners regained the U.S. tag title from The Midnight Express (below).



raw power in leaping strides with every bench-press while Rick's technique has become more sophisticated and wellrounded than ever. These are experienced, capable grapplers. Flair would be wise not to take them lightly.

Yet for all the excitement a Steiner upset would generate, it may only lead to a disaster for the sport. No one can control the flow of a feud, and the Steiners' pact could turn the brothers against each other more violently than either one suspects. Imagine Rick's "Steinerline" and Scott's "Frankensteiner" with opposite intentions, no longer working in fluid unison. The very skills and maneuvers that vaulted the team to greatness could shatter the pair.

Think of the Freebirds and other rival teams when they learn of the pact. The thought of a Steiner singles title must light fire in their hearts.

A Steiner replacing Flair at the top seems like every fan's dream.

But there is the pact, and its consequences could be tragic.



## TH TITLE REIGN His Last Chance For Respect Ric Flair realized this would be one of his last chances to regain the World title from Sting. That gave him a

By Bob Smith

THE MATCH ENDED in much the same way dozens of Ric Flair's bouts have ended in the past. The NWA World champion had successfully defended his title by defeating Sting. In reality, it was a victory only because the referee had declared it so.

Lusting to regain the NWA belt he was robbed of, Sting wrestled brilliantly throughout the hard-fought rematch. The popular Californian jarred the champion with a series of military presses and slams, and later rocked Flair with a "Stinger splash."

renewed sense of purpose.

As he always seems to do, Flair managed to worm his way out of dan-

ger. When Sting tried to apply a scorpion leglock a bit too close to the ropes, Flair slipped out of the hold, positioned Sting in an inside cradle, and pushed his feet against the ropes for extra leverage. Since the referee was busy checking Sting's shoulders, he never saw Flair circumvent the rules to score the pin.

Even with seven NWA World titles to his credit, Ric Flair ranks among the sport's most reviled men. While most wrestlers admire the "Nature Boy's" accomplishments, they can't bring themselves to respect him. Only Flair himself can change the perception he has justly earned

Flair strutted back to the dressing room holding his NWA belt over his head in celebration. However, none of the fans felt like cheering the champion. In fact, it is obvious that Flair is more hated now than at any time during his 18-year career.

"I don't give a damn whether or not the fans like me," Flair said in the dressing room following the contest. "Any wrestler who pays attention to what those rubes think is just wasting his career. But those people still have to respect me. Hey, I'm a seven-time NWA World titleholder. That alone should qualify me as the most celebrated champion ever."

Flair may want to believe those claims, but the reality of the situation is that very few fans—and even fewer wrestlers—respect the "Nature Boy" much these days. And even his harshest critics know it doesn't have to be that way.

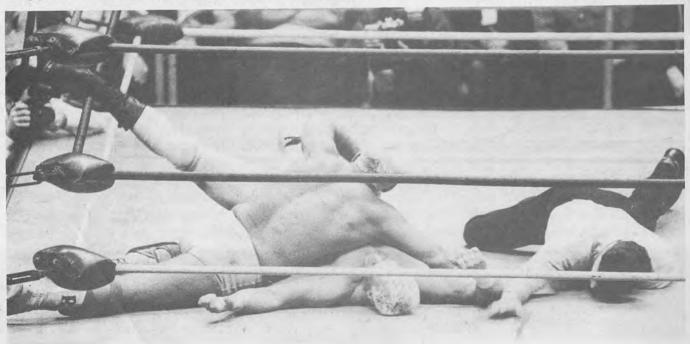
"I've seen most of Flair's important matches during the past few years," said NWA broadcaster Jim Ross. "I have to admit he's one of the most purely talented competitors I've ever seen. But the way he conducts himself is the biggest disgrace in this federation. If he can't cheat to win, then he calls on the other members of The Four Horsemen to bail him out of trouble. Frankly, I don't understand it. He's too skilled to rely on such blatantly cheap tricks."

Those cheap tricks, however, may be the key to keeping Flair on top as World champion. U.S. titlist Lex Luger looks at Flair's three-month masquerade as The Black Scorpion as proof that Flair lacks self-confidence. The escapade caused Flair to lose a great deal of status among his contemporaries.

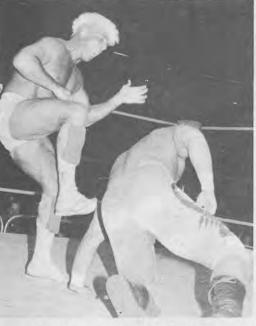
"The whole Scorpion thing was ridiculous," said Luger. "I'd never put down Flair's talent, but how can you respect a guy who goes on national



For a time, it appeared as though the "Stinger" had Flair beaten (above). When Flair had Sting pinned, the referee didn't see Sting's foot on the ropes (below).



television and performs magic tricks to gain attention? That's why I think Flair's latest title reign won't last long. He's a shell of his former self, at least mentally. And, as everyone knows, desperate men do desperate things."



Flair sees his victory over Sting as a way of increasing his match purses, not as a way of increasing his level of respect as an athlete.



Other wrestlers have noticed Flair's vile actions during the past year. Brian Pillman, who Flair helped train when he first entered the NWA in the summer of 1989, claims Flair could win honorably if he wanted to.

"Underneath it all, I know Flair can still compete with the best of them," said Pillman, who now counts himself among Flair's enemies. "Recent history proves it. Look at when he beat Rick Steamboat for his sixth NWA title back in 1989. Flair used a small package to beat Steamboat, and he did it clean in the middle of the ring. And in the months following that victory, Flair may have been the most respected wrestler anywhere. He was beating guys such as Terry Funk and Lex Luger, and he was doing it by the rules."

Those days seem like decades ago now. Since reforming the Horsemen, Flair has openly shunned using his scientific skills in favor of more tawdry tactics. To the Horsemen, however, any victory is a good one.

"He's a seven-time NWA champion now," reasons Arn Anderson. "That's an achievement only one other guy, Harley Race, has ever been able to accomplish. Who cares how Flair wins? He's the greatest competitor of his time. You have to admit that, whenever he needs a victory, he always goes out and gets it any way he has to. That's the mark of a winner."

It may be the mark of a winner, but it's obvious that Flair no longer possesses much in the way of self-pride. Many NWA observers are worried and saddened that Flair's latest title reign will be a repeat of his sixth, which was rife with outside interference and self-disqualification.

"It really doesn't have to be that way," said Ross. "It's not too late for Flair to reclaim the respect he has lost among wrestlers and fans. He can stop relying on the Horsemen if he wants to. More importantly, he can focus his efforts on getting some clean pinfall wins instead of this feet-on-the-ropes malarkey. After all, this will probably be his last run with the belt. It's up to him to reestablish himself as a true great."

Sadly, that seems only a remote possibility. Flair has become used to taking the easy way out. Backed by the combined forces of Anderson, Barry Windham, and Sid Vicious—and possessing one of the most cruelly calculating minds in history—Flair knows it will take a superhuman effort to defeat him again. In his warped mind, that is all that matters.

"People must respect me," Flair insists. "Look at the history books. I've beaten Race, Kerry Von Erich, Steamboat, Dusty Rhodes, Ron Garvin, and now Sting to earn seven NWA titles. That's history, baby. So let all the fans hoot and holler. Let all my opponents keep displaying their envy. I'll just keep carting my big championship purses straight to my broker. After all, the only records that really count are the ones they keep at the bank."

Spoken like a man who doesn't even respect *himself*.  $\Box$ 

Randy Savage's attacks on The Ultimate Warrior not only cost Warrior the WWF World title, they've set the tone for a feud of uncommon brutality. As these two former World champions bring their rage into the ring, there is pride and honor at stake—but, sadly, no title belt

### **Consumed By Hatred**

### SAVAGE VS. WARRIOR

ANDY SAVAGE GOT half of what he wanted—and more than he bargained for.

As the events of January 19, 1991, began to unfold, it was clear that there was more than the Royal Rumble and Ultimate Warrior's title match against Sgt. Slaughter in the offing at the Miami Arena. Savage was on hand, and he had designs on the Warrior and his championship.

Savage wanted a title shot; Sensational Sherri's seductive pleas to the Warrior were testimony to that. But the "Macho King" wanted more than just a chance at the prize, he wanted a piece of the champion. He wanted to give Warrior a taste of Savage savagery.

Warrior tasted it, all right. And felt it, too. The punishment came in the form of a security railing to the head, a metal light stand to the back, and a scepter shattered across the champion's brow.

Savage dished it out with a vengeance. But in doing so, he enabled Slaughter to take advantage of the weakened Warrior and wrest the title with a pin at the 12:47 mark. There's a new WWF champion, but his name isn't Randy Savage.

All Savage accomplished was to reduce Warrior to his own status: ex-champion. Savage covets the title, yet, as of press time, he was no closer to a championship match than before his public beating of Warrior.

By Kostya Kennedy

"Randy really didn't help himself by attacking Warrior," said a veteran WWF official. "Maybe he got some personal satisfaction out of it, but he didn't enhance his chances for title shots. If anything, he hurt himself. Slaughter is one of the most hated guys in wrestling, and with Hulk Hogan campaigning for an opportunity to regain the belt, a rulebreaker like Savage isn't going to get many shots.

"Let's face it: Most people in and around wrestling are disappointed that Slaughter, with his pro-Iraq sentiments, has the title. They'd much rather see a hero like Hogan get the chance to dismantle Slaughter than another rulebreaker like Savage."

So, aside from the wounds he left to be stitched on Warrior's face, what does Savage have to show for his night of sin?

A boiling-hot feud, that's what. Once he had regained his senses

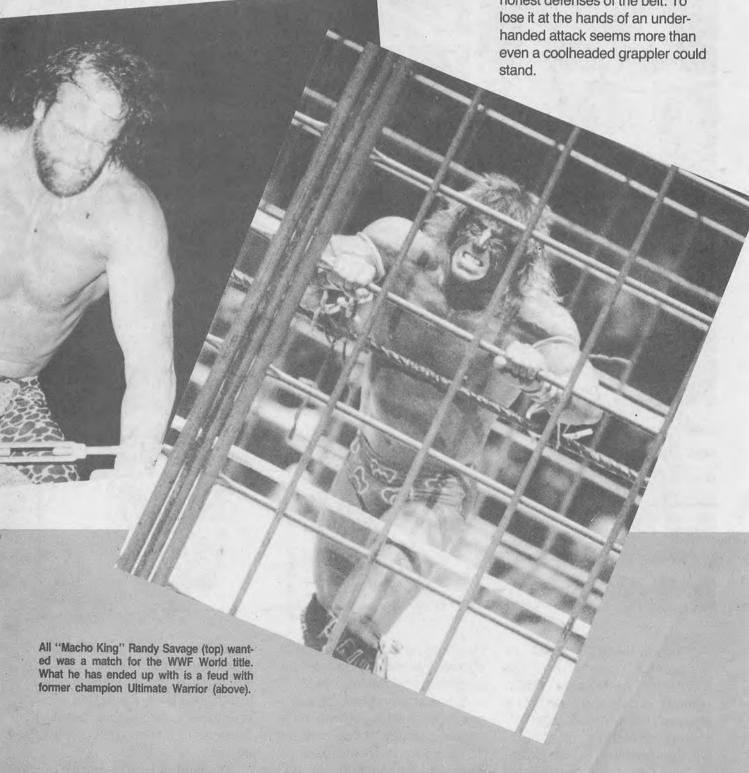


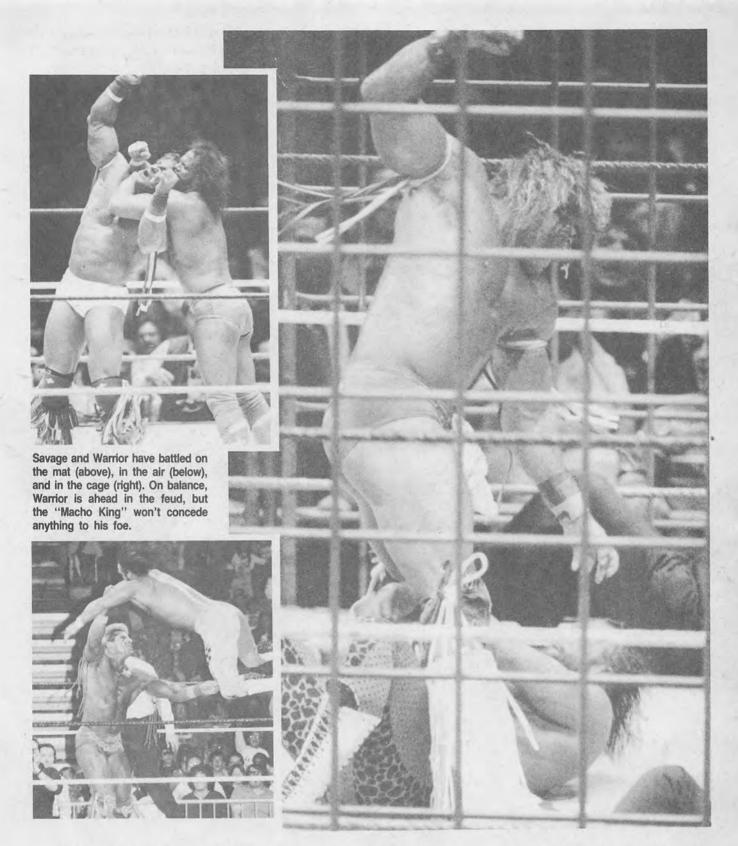


and realized that Savage's wickedness had cost him the belt he had fought so hard to win, Warrior declared war on Savage. There's no longer a title at stake, but Warrior has his pride to defend.

"If Savage thinks he's going to get away with this, he's kidding himself," said a WWF fan favorite with close ties to the Warrior. "Warrior has become one of the most powerful and dangerous wrestlers in the sport. Savage was able to hurt him because he blindsided him and used weapons. Get them one on one in the ring and Savage doesn't stand a chance."

The "Macho King" must prepare himself for one of the most grueling tests he has faced in his 18 years as a wrestler. Yes, they've wrestled before, but Warrior has never wrestled with such a lust for revenge in his heart. He shocked the world with his pin of Hogan at WrestleMania VI, and won many hearts with his valiant, honest defenses of the belt. To lose it at the hands of an underhanded attack seems more than even a coolheaded grappler could stand.





"The way the title changed really wasn't fair," said the fan favorite. "You won't hear Ultimate Warrior complain about it, because he's a class act, but he definitely got shafted. He had to go up against two guys, and they're both cheaters, plus the interference of Sherri.

He knows he would have dominated Slaughter easily if Savage and Sherri hadn't gotten involved."

But for all Warrior's furor, Sav-'age is not afraid. If anything, he is angrier and meaner than ever, particularly since Warrior yanked Sherri into the ring by the hair and hurled her out again over the top rope. Warrior's manhandling of Sherri has continued during Savage-Warrior bouts around the country, and that's what's keeping Savage's blood temperature scalding-hot.

"Randy stands by his people

and defends his women," said a wrestler close to Savage. "He wasn't surprised that Warrior would stoop so low as to take out his anger on a woman, but when he saw it happen he lost his cool. In his own way, he really cares about Sherri, and he's vowed to get revenge for her."

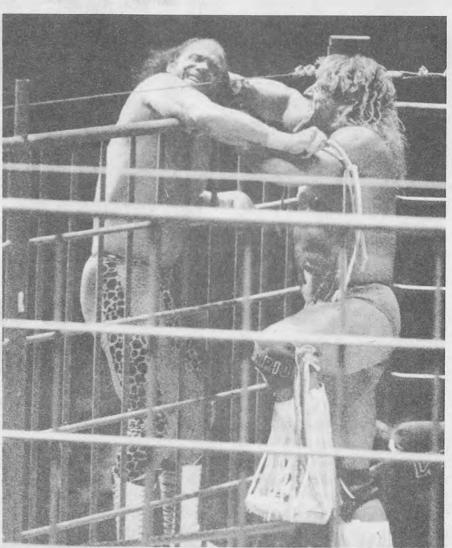
Lost in that assessment is the fact that Sherri tried to trip Warrior early in the title match and later pranced on the ring apron, taunting the champion. Not that Warrior's actions are excused, but they weren't unprecipitated.

The sadness in it all is that Savage and Warrior could be feuding for something that has real meaning. Like a WWF title belt. Instead, these two will fight it out as noncontenders while Slaughter enjoys his first world title reign after 14 years in the sport.

As we said at the outset: Savage got half of what he wanted, and more than he bargained for.

Far more.

Warrior refuses to let Sensational Sherri's interference (below) stop his assault on Savage (right).







### STING

# "DON'T CALL ME A CRYBABY, I JUST WANT JUSTICE!"

IT WASN'T SUPPOSED to happen the way it did. Sting was too strong and Ric Flair was too old. Surely Sting would be able to withstand Flair in any title match.

Well, things don't always turn out as expected. On January 11, Flair pinned Sting at the Byrne Meadowlands Arena in New Jersey to capture the NWA World title for the seventh time. The victory established the "Nature Boy" more than ever as an all-time wrestling great.

But this title-winning effort, as is the case with many Flair triumphs, was tainted. Sting pinned Flair twice while referee Nick Patrick lay unconscious. Then, as Flair made his pin, Sting's left foot was clearly draped over the center rope. But Patrick didn't see Sting's foot, he only saw Flair's cover. The title change stood.

In the aftermath of the match, Sting was incensed. He was angry to lose the belt under what he considered unfair circumstances. But as he cooled off, Sting realized that complaining would do no good. He saw that Flair would remain in control of the World title until a wrestler, not an NWA official, took it away from him. And Sting vowed to be that wrestler.

When Inside Wrestling writer Kostya

Kennedy met with Sting at a Venice Beach, California, restaurant, the former champion was completely focused upon regaining his belt. It was clear that this was a man concerned with the potential of the future, not the unchangeable past.

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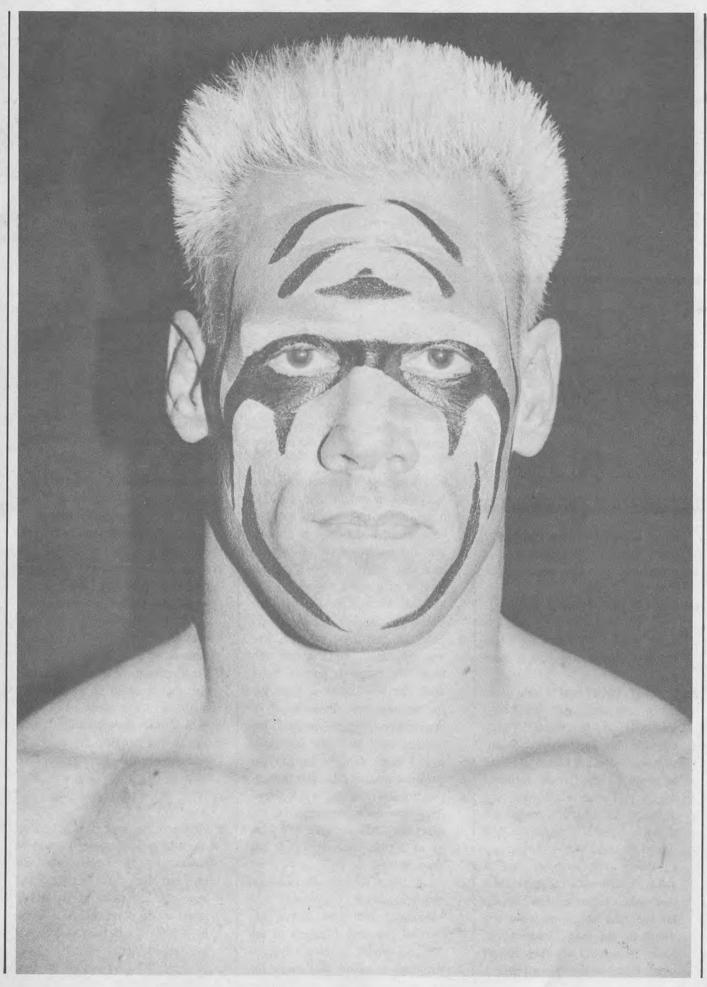
I know I'm the best wrestler in the NWA. I want the belt back, and I'm going to get it.

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- Q: Well, Sting, it sure seems to me that you're not wallowing in despair over losing your belt. Still, that must have been a devastating loss. How have you been able to maintain your intensity?
- A: I just decided that worrying about what happened wasn't going to do me any good. I know I'm the best wrestler in the NWA, and it's up
  - to me to channel my talent productively. Ever since that painful reha-

bilitation last year after the Horsemen banged up my knee, I've realized the value of dedication. I want the NWA belt back, and I'm going to get it. But the only way to do that is to stay focused. It won't come easy.

- Q: It sure won't. I know you believe in pushing your body to the limit. Are you training as rigorously as ever these days?
- A: Harder than ever, dude. I'm at the gym day and night. I should just move my bed in there, I work out so much. I'm not just building my power, I'm also getting myself in tremendous cardiovascular condition. I want to build up my stamina to the point where I could last hours in the ring if I had to. At this point, I could match anyone in the sport in terms of stamina.
- Q: Give us an idea of what your typical day is like.
- A: Well, since I wrestle in so many different cities, it's difficult to have a set routine. But I try to get up at about 6:30 or 7 a.m. and run eight miles before breakfast. Then I go to the gym and work on two body parts in the morning. After lunch I swim or ride a bike, then I work another body part in the late-after-





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I take pride in being honorable. I don't change my morals or beliefs because of a personal setback.

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- noon. I usually do some training at night, like running wind-sprints or something, but that really varies from day to day.
- Q: Even in early-January, the inside word was that you were in much better shape than Flair. Were you shocked that he was able to beat you?
- A: I could have easily won that match, and some say I should have won it. It's not like I couldn't keep up with him. But anyway, to answer your question honestly, I have to admit I wasn't really surprised by his performance; I knew he'd be tough. Ric Flair is a weasel and a blot on the NWA, but he is a superb wrestler. You don't win seven World titles without a lot of ability. Flair wrestled a great match that night. He has a lot of tricks in his bag, and he knows when and where to use them. I know I'm better than him, but that doesn't mean I underestimate his talent.



Sting cannot believe that Flair has pinned him. Rather than complain about poor officiating, though, Sting is determined to regain the title in the ring.

- Q: You mentioned that some people feel that you should have won the match. I suppose that's based on your pins that went unseen and the fact that your foot was on the second rope when you were pinned. In light of what happened, do you advocate changes in the way the NWA sanctions its title matches?
- A: Nah, the rules are pretty fair. I've won with them and I've lost with them. No system is perfect, but I think the NWA does a great job for the most part. Basically, all of the referees who've worked my matches have been fair and decisive. I guess it might be good to have one or two extra refs at ringside for title matches, in case something happens to the main ref, but that's not really my area. I'm happy to let the higher-ups work out those details.
- **Q:** What about the use of videotape replay to decide controversy?
- A: Videotape? No way! I'm a big football fan, and I hate it in the NFL. It would be even worse in wrestling. It would slow down the

- matches so much. Could you imagine stopping in mid-match to review a controversial move? It would take momentum away from the wrestlers and would kill the spirit of the match. In the end it probably wouldn't solve much, somebody still has to make a decision. Live refereeing is good enough for me. I like the human element.
- Q: I'm impressed. It takes an honorable man to stand by a system that might have cost him.
- A: Well, I take pride in being honorable. I don't change my morals or beliefs because of a personal setback.
- Q: What are your professional plans now?
- A: First and foremost, I'm out to get my belt back. I mean, I could be howling all over about the title loss, but that's not my style. I just want my fair share of rematches, that's all. So don't call me a crybaby, I just want justice. And it's not just for me that I want the championship, it's also for all the fans



Aside from pursuing Flair (above), Sting keeps a close eye on Sid Vicious (below). Interestingly, Sting rates Lex Luger above both Horsemen.

that have supported me. There are a lot of people out there who believe in me, and I want to show them that their faith is in the right place. Trust me, when I get my shot at the title, I won't squander it. I want that belt so badly I can taste it.

- Q: Not of all of your matches will be title shots. What else do you plan to do?
- A: Well, teaming with Lex Luger has been great. It's hard to find people to work with in this sport, but Lex is one of the good ones. I haven't been part of a tag team for a while and it's exciting to be involved in it again. Individually, I'm just going to take on anyone who comes my way. I can beat any wrestler in this federation and I'm going to prove that.
- Q: Does it bother you that El Gigante seems to be falling in line for some of the title chances that might otherwise go to you?
- A: Well—actually, it does bother me a bit. Gigante has a heart of gold, but he really does have a long way to go before he's a viable contender for the World title. Plus, I



haven't even begun to get my share of rematches yet, so . . . look, it's very difficult to win a clean victory over Flair. He always has some way to twist the rules and hold on to his belt, and you need a series of rematches, not just one or two, to really get a jump on him.

Q: You've been involved with wrestling long enough to be a pretty good judge of talent. Leaving yourself out of the equation, do you think Flair is the best of the rest in the NWA?



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Ric Flair is a weasel and a blot on the NWA, but he is a superb wrestler. He has a lot of tricks in his bag.

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- A: He's up there, that's for sure.
- O: Who else?
- A: Sid Vicious is very powerful. You have to be careful of him, because he can really hurt you if you make a mistake. But I think Lex could probably beat either one of them.
- Q: Are you saying that just because the two of you are partners?
- A: No, no, that's not it. I mean, of course I'd rather see Lex at the top than Flair or Vicious, because he plays by the rules and that's what the sport is all about. But I truthfully think he's the best wrestler of the three. Anyway, this question is irrelevant. There's only one rightful champion, and you're eating lunch with him!
- Q: I was eating lunch with him, that is. It's about time to pay the tab. Anything you'd like to tell your fans before we wrap up?
- A: Yeah: Thanks again for sticking with me. Hang in there folks, I'm coming back!

### VIRGIL LEAVES TED DIBIASE

AMILLION-DOLLAR
MISTAKE?

By Bob Smith

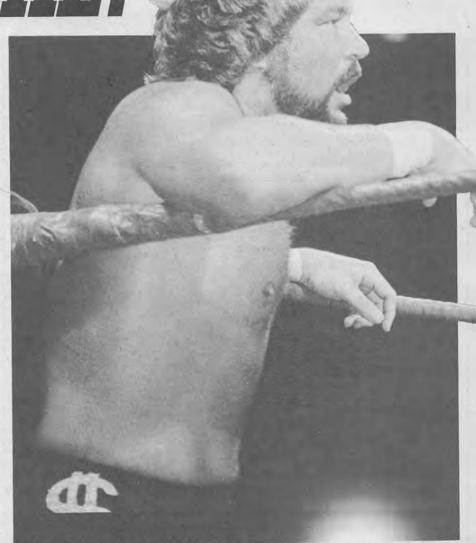
T WAS TOO much for even the most faithful servant to take. The taunts. The insults. The degrading duties any human being would be embarrassed to carry out. It was too humiliating for anyone—even Virgil.

Upon receiving a huge inheritance in 1987, Ted DiBiase hired Virgil, a massive but inexperienced young wrestler, to be his personal bodyguard. The "Million-Dollar Man" was a generous employer, but he was also a cruel taskmaster with no more regard for Virgil's feelings than for his opponents or the fans.

In the beginning, the relationship was perfect. DiBiase gave the orders, and Virgil carried them out, no matter what they were. The feel of cold, hard cash in Virgil's hands always smoothed over any embarrassment he felt.

Nothing was too low for DiBiase to demand of Virgil. If DiBiase stepped into some dog excrement in the street, Virgil was there with a cloth to wipe it off his shoe. If DiBiase was perspiring, Virgil was there to dab his forehead with a piece of tissue.

In recent months, though, DiBiase's demands became increasingly bizarre and debasing, and Virgil was justifiably insulted. Clean the grunge from between DiBiase's toes? Wipe the snot from



"Million-Dollar Man" Ted DiBiase (above) has spent the last 3½ years ordering Virgil to do his bidding (opposite page). Virgil isn't taking it anymore.

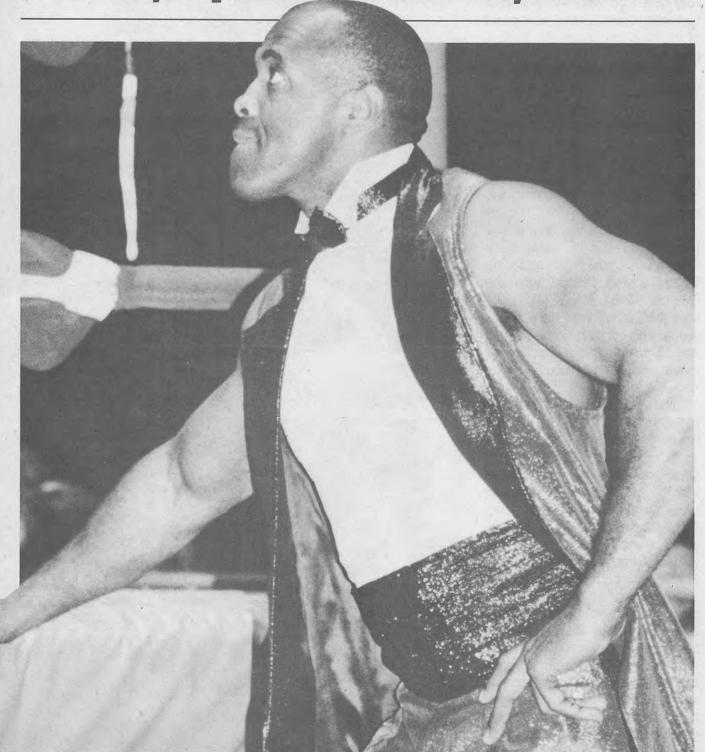
DiBiase's nose—with his bare hand? Just do it, Virgil. That's what you get paid for.

There will be no more of DiBiase's checks issued to Virgil's account. In a stirring moment of liberation, Virgil set himself free of DiBiase by blasting the wealthy rulebreaker over the head with the

"million-dollar belt" at the Royal Rumble on January 19 in Miami.

During the match in which DiBiase and Virgil defeated Dusty and Dustin Rhodes, DiBiase had battered Virgil and thrown him from the ring after Virgil accidentally clotheslined DiBiase. After the match, DiBiase demanded that Virgin accidentally clotheslined DiBiase demanded that Virgin accidentally clotheslined DiBiase.

For years, long-suffering manservant Virgil did "Million-Dollar Man" Ted DiBiase's cruel bidding. Finally, unable to not take any more humiliation, Virgil left DiBiase for good. Will Virgil live to regret a split that could soon prove to be very expensive—in more ways than one?



gil take the jewel-studded belt and place it around the "Million-Dollar Man's" waist.

Not this time. Virgil lifted the belt and brought it down hard across DiBiase's head, leaving Di-Biase unconscious in the ring. Virgil's moment of freedom prompted a standing ovation from the Miami Arena crowd. But how wise was it for Virgil to leave the employ of a man who had provided him with a good living—and years of valuable instruction—for such a long time?

When Virgil was first hired by DiBiase in 1987, he had been a competitive bodybuilder, but didn't possess even rudimentary wrestling skills. As purely evil as he is, DiBiase has always been a master technical wrestler, and he taught Virgil the basics of the sport.

"I guess I once was in a similar position to Virgil," said Steve Olsonowski, who was a rookie when he and DiBiase won the Georgia National tag team title from the Freebirds in 1981. "I was just starting out, and DiBiase taught me so many holds that he just about doubled my ability in the ring. No kidding!

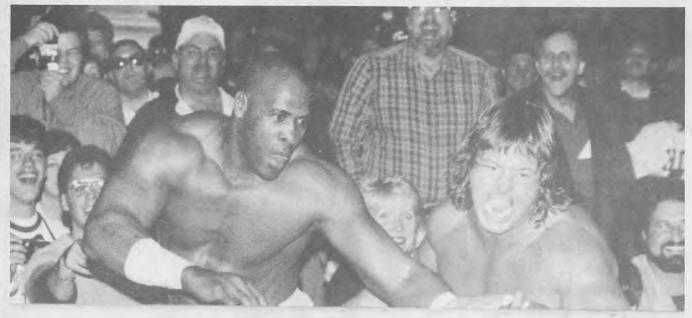
"Sure, Ted's become pretty arrogant since becoming rich," continued Olsonowski, "but doing some menial duties seems like a small price to pay for that kind of instruction. If Virgil really wants to be a full-time wrestler, he'll never find an instructor as good as DiBiase at any price."

In addition, departing DiBiase's employ leaves Virgil without a steady salary. According to those close to DiBiase, Virgil's annual salary exceeded the amount that all but the most successful WWF stars make. Now, Virgil has been left virtually without any income, and reportedly has an ill mother and several other family members to support. Not only is Virgil poorer in both knowledge and money,



Not content with being just a valet, Virgil jumped into singles bouts against Kerry Von Erich, and he didn't fare too well.











Virgil once wrestled Roddy Piper (above), but now Piper's training him. When Virgil attempted to save DiBiase from a beating by Jake Roberts (left), he paid a high price (bottom left). And DiBiase wasn't there to help him out.

but now he has a livid DiBiase vowing to cripple him.

"Man, I'd hate to be in Virgil's shoes," said one WWF rulebreaker, who requested anonymity. "Di-Biase is always dangerous, but there's two things you never do to the guy—you never take his money, and you never, ever try to publicly humiliate him. DiBiase has been in a frantic state since Virgil left him. Can Virgil beat Ted in a one-on-one match? No way! Virgil just doesn't have the experience or the killer instinct, and DiBiase knows it."

Virgil seems to realize that, and has taken steps to rectify the situation. He's struck up a friendship with Roddy Piper, who has already announced that he's helping train Virgil for the former bodyguard's full-time wrestling debut. In addition, Virgil has become one of the

most popular WWF personalities, and the cheers of the fans have filled him with pride. But even with those advantages, the odds still seem stacked against him.

Virgil has been too busy to notice. Recently, he unexpectedly appeared at ringside during a match pitting DiBiase against Kerry Von Erich. After watching DiBiase try to savage Von Erich during the bout, Virgil sneaked up to the apron and held DiBiase's leg to the canvas while Kerry scored the winning pinfall.

After the match, Von Erich offered his hand to Virgil as a symbol of friendship. Not only did Virgil reach out and shake Kerry's hand, but something else miraculous happened: Virgil smiled.

And that's something that piles of DiBiase's dirty money could never buy him before.

The telephone wires sizzle every month as two top wrestlers voice their rage and hostility toward each other. This is the unedited transcript of their conversation, your chance to see the raw emotion that results when two antagonists face off ... One on One

BARRY WINDHAM WANTS Sid Vicious to remain as a member of The Four Horsemen. Dan Spivey wants Vicious to rejoin him in The Skyscrapers. And that's why Windham and Spivey, two unabashed rulebreakers, are arguing with each other.

A bit of history is in order: In 1989, manager Teddy Long teamed Spivey and Vicious as The Skyscrapers. The massive duo quickly amassed a series of impressive victories and just as quickly shot up the NWA tag team rankings. Their future seemed bright.

Then Vicious suffered a punctured lung, which forced him out of action for months. But rather than wait for Vicious to return, Long replaced him with "Mean" Mark Callous (now The Undertaker in the WWF).

Vicious vowed never to forgive Long. When he finally returned to the ring in April 1990, he did so as a member of The Four Horsemen. At the same time, Windham rejoined that notorious rulebreaking quartet. Infused with the energies and skills of these two powerhouses, the Horsemen looked forward to a new era of dominance in the NWA.

Then it was Spivey's turn to shake things up. In December, he persuaded Vicious to team with him in a one-shot reunion of The Skyscrapers at Starrcade '90. With the fans cheering them on, they proceeded to demolish Motor City Madman and Big Cat in 61 seconds.

Recently, Spivey revealed he wanted to make The Skyscraper's' reunion a permanent one. The Horsemen, know-

# ONE O



"You and Sid [Vicious] had a great run as the 'Scrapers, but that's all in the past. Sid's with the Horsemen now. This is his home." —Barry Windham

ing that losing Vicious could be a mortal blow to their dreams of NWA dominance, weren't about to let him leave the fold.

As Vicious decided which direction he'd take, we asked both sides to discuss the issue on the telephone. Spivey was eager to talk, as were Ric Flair and Arn Anderson, who asked Windham to represent the Horsemen . . . "One on One."

#### BARRY WINDHAM:

Danny, I can't understand it. You're one of the finest young wrestlers in the sport. I really mean that. You should be going after any one of a bunch of singles titles. Why bother with tag teams? Hey, I know you and Sid had a great run as the 'Scrapers, but that's all in the past. Sid's with the Horsemen now. This is his home. We have a great thing going here. Why would he want to leave?

#### DAN SPIVEY:

For the same reason I replaced you as Mike Rotundo's partner in the U.S. Express back in '86, Barry, my boy. Because Sid knows a good deal when he sees one. Together, Vicious and I have the opportunity to do what no

# N ONE



"Sid's ready to drop out of the Horsemen forever. The minute I decide to reform The Skyscrapers for good, he's outta there."
—Dan Spivey

other team has ever done before. We weren't together all that long, but we established ourselves as the premier team of the '90s. That's something that a couple of has-beens like you and Arn Anderson could never be, and Sid knows that. It's time for new blood in the NWA, not the same old hackneyed Horsemen garbage.

BW: Did I just hear you right? Did you just call Arn Anderson and me "has-beens?" I was willing to cut you a break, Dan, but it's obvious that you're too stupid to see a good opportunity. Maybe

after Arn and I finish off those punk Renegade Warriors, and after we get some gold around our waists, we'll decide to teach you not to run off at the mouth too quick. And just maybe Sid will be right there with us. How does that sound, big man?

DS: I like the way you talk, Barry. You're obviously a guy who's got a lot of confidence. But even better is the way you said "just maybe" when talking about Sid's future plans. You're not so confident about that, are you? That's because you know damn well that Sid's about ready to drop out of

the Horsemen forever. What does he have to gain by sticking with you guys? Playing nursemaid to Ric Flair? That's no career for a man of Vicious' caliber. Enjoy having him around for now, but the minute I decide to reform The Skyscrapers for good, he's outta there.

BW: Don't be too quick to speak for Sid, man. He's been a big part of the Horsemen for almost a year now. That's not something you just throw away. Lex Luger made that mistake and he paid dearly for it. Yeah, he's U.S. champion, but that doesn't mean squat! Heck, I'm lucky to have gotten a second chance. As I got older, I wised up about the Horsemen. We are the elite, my friend. Nobody crosses us and gets away with it. We had our slump and now we're ready to rule again.

DS: Yeah, sure. The same way you've ruled for the past year. The Horsemen's glories have consisted of Arn ignoring his TV title and Flair regaining the World belt on a fluke. Not too impressive. The Horsemen have been relying on reputation and luck for too long. When Sid and I get together, we dominate. Just ask Big Cat and Motor City Madman.

BW:Oh, right, Big Cat and Madman. There's some tough competition. They'd been a tag team for, what, a week? How would you and Sid fare against guys like The Freebirds? Or the Steiners? I despise Rick and Scott, but they're two damn fine wrestlers. Like I said before, you and Sid were great . . . once. Maybe Sid would be able to put it together again, but you look a little rusty. Stick to singles, Danny, or you might get hurt. Hurt bad.

DS: Man, are you misguided, and I know how to prove it. Pick either Flair or Anderson. I don't really care which one. Work out together for a month or two, then get some matches against the Steiners or somebody. Hone your skills like never before. Then gimme a call. Then I'll call Sid, and we'll beat you without even practicing—and we'll do it with ease.

BW: Don't lob challenges at the Horsemen, boy. You may find yourself saddled with more than you can handle.

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#### SINCERELY YOURS

(Continued from page 5)

Boy" is a snake, and in 1991 he shed his skin, cut his hair, and pinned the 1990 Wrestler of the Year.

How sweet it is!

CARTER RINER Lebanon, VA

#### SECONDS OF TERROR

I was spellbound but angered as I read Sting's account of being choked by Stan Hansen in the March 1991 issue ("Stan Hansen Lassos Sting: 'I Felt Like I Had Just Seconds To Live!" "). What bugs me the most, though, is that NWA officials have done little to prevent Hansen from bringing his bullrope and cowbell to the ring with him!

It's obvious that Hansen intends to use that rope to choke his opponents whenever he gets in trouble. Long before he became U.S. champion, Hansen tried to strangle dozens of his preliminary opponents with it. He even used the rope to anger Lex Luger into giving him a U.S. title match in the first place!

I've always admired Hansen for being a rugged brawler, but this time he's gone too far. The NWA fined him \$5,000 and suspended him for 30 days once before. Next time, they should ban him outright!

LEN DAVIS
Baltimore
(Continued on page 54)



Stan Hansen should be kicked out of the NWA permanently for the way he's choked Sting and other opponents with his bullrope, in reader Len Davis' view.

### THIS MONTH IN...

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#### SINCERELY YOURS

(Continued from page 52)

#### WHO'S THE HOOD?

One of the biggest questions in the Pacific Northwest area these days is: Who is The Hood? This guessing game has captured the imagination of most of the fans here, but I don't really care who the guy is. I just wish somebody would run him out of Portland forever!

I've seen The Hood wrestle several times, and I'm convinced that he loads his mask to headbutt his opponents. In addition, most of his opponents are more concerned with unmasking him, so they're really beaten before their matches with The Hood begin.

I hope either PNW champion Steve Doll or Scott Norton decides to end this charade. The Hood is the most vile wrestler to hit Portland since The Grappler-and now these two bums have started to team up!

> ROB PETERSON Portland, OR

#### JAKE'S GREAT

I must give credit to Jake Roberts for the valiant fight he's put up against Rick Martel. The article in the March 1991 issue ("Jake Roberts vs. Rick Martel: Blind Outrage!") proved that although Jake's vision has been impaired, even a healthy "Model" is no match for Roberts' talents.

Given enough time for his eye to heal, there's no doubt that Roberts will teach Martel a well-deserved lesson: Don't mess with "The Snake"!

> AUDREY THOMPSON Charleston, WV

#### A BAD MEMORY

The "Blast From The Past" in the March 1991 issue brought back a lot of memories for me. I was at Madison Square Garden the night Ivan Koloff defeated Bruno Sammartino for the WWF World title, and to this day I've never seen anything like it anywhere.

It was one of the saddest moments I can recall. When Koloff pinned Sam-



When Ivan Koloff won the WWF title from Bruno Sammartino in 1971, the sadness in the sport proved how loyal fans were to Bruno, reader Pat Walls says.



Reader Audrey Thompson commends Jake "The Snake" Roberts for the valiant fight he's put up against Rick "The Model" Martel.

martino, the Garden crowd fell into a hushed silence. Women were seen to be weeping. Even the guys were having trouble holding back their emotions. No one expected Koloff to beat the beloved Bruno, since Sammartino had defeated the Russian many times before.

I'd bet that today's wrestlers can't inspire the kind of loyalty that Bruno once did. In my mind, he truly is the only "Living Legend."

> PAT WALLS New York

#### NOT HONKY LOVE

I just read "Behind The Dressing Room Door" in the February 1991 issue and was appalled. Dave Rosenbaum is wrong. The Honky Tonk Man is a lousy wrestler. But for three years, I've heard Rosenbaum sing the praises of this overbearing moron.



The Honky Tonk Man is just a prelim bum who got lucky, writes Bruce Gray. Bruce is sick of Senior Writer Dave Rosenbaum's constant praise of Honky Tonk.

Honky Tonk is nothing more than an overrated prelim bum. Sure, he won the Intercontinental title from Rick Steamboat, but he did it on a fluke. How many rematches did Steamboat get?

Rosenbaum, you have rocks in your head. If this is your idea of a role model, you need help. The two of you couldn't sharpen a pencil.

BRUCE D. GRAY Orlando, FL

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#### **DRESSING ROOM DOOR**

(Continued from page 12)



Larry Zbyszko maintains that Sgt. Slaughter's title victory is proof of what he sees as inferior competition in the WWF.

"He's the only guy in that bunch that knows what he's doing," Zbyszko said. "There's a guy who's always stuck to his guns. I don't trust Slaughter, because I know what he's all about, I know what he was like. Same for Savage. Same for Sherri. Adnan is a man of his word."

Zbyszko, who wrestled Slaughter dozens of times, figures Slaughter hasn't improved as a wrestler but simply had the right people in his corner. He points out, correctly, that the Warrior dominated the match, and that Slaughter wouldn't have won without outside interference.

"Which is the typical situation,"

Zbyszko said. "Slaughter could never win without help. You know, I have a mind to go to the WWF and challenge Slaughter, but I'm not sure his title is worth much. Besides, the fans would probably end up rooting for me, and we definitely don't want that. I don't need that kind of slime on my side."

Leave it to Zbyszko to always look at life through warped glasses.

But in this case, he has a point: How in the world can washed-up Sgt. Slaughter be the WWF World champion? I don't care how much interference there is, he simply can't be the champion!

The problem, of course, is that the WWF allowed Slaughter to cheat his way into contention. Really, the blame goes to the WWF's front office, Jack Tunney presiding.

Surprise, surprise!

Everybody knows Hulk Hogan. The man is a household world and the most famous wrestler in history.

But we're all used to seeing Hogan in wrestling tights, so I wonder how many people recognized him when he appeared on a commercial during the Super Bowl dressed in regular clothing.

I watched the game with about 15 other people, 12 of whom weren't wrestling fans, and only seven of the 15 recognized Hogan.

Clothes unmake the man.

The commercial didn't even identify Hogan; it just assumed that people knew who he was. The commercial, if you missed it, portrayed the normally hyper Hogan painting on the beach and speaking in a relaxed and dignified manner.

Hogan in clothing, however, looks no different than any other musclehead. It was nice to see a wrestler appear in a commercial on such a big event as the Super Bowl (and Hogan did a good job), but I wonder if some people on Madison Avenue overestimated the general public's familiarity with Hogan.



Dave Rosenbaum wonders how many nonwrestling fans recognized Hulk Hogan in his "Right Guard" commercial.

Put him in wrestling tights and everybody would have known him.

Put him in a suit and he is no longer Hulk Hogan.

Hogan's victory in the Royal Rumble can only be taken as a sign of great things to come. We sometimes forget that Hogan is around, just because he isn't World champion, but Hogan's performance at the Rumble proves that he's still a dominating factor.

What's next? Quite simply, the World title. All that Hogan needs is one shot at Slaughter and the belt will be his for a third time. His chances would be best at WrestleMania VII, where security and officiating is a little tighter and outside interference is a little more difficult.

By the way, WrestleMania is being held at the 100,000-seat Los Angeles Coliseum, and the WWF World champion is an Iraqi sympathizer.

There's a Super Bowl-sized security problem there, one I hope and pray the WWF will deal with quickly and safely.

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#### THE INSIDER

(Continued from page 14)



If Sgt. Slaughter loses to Hulk Hogan at WrestleMania VII, he should be shipped out to Baghdad immediately, in Ellner's (and probably a lot of other fans') opinion.

other activity foolish, or, at best, senseless. Still, I had five days before the allied invasion to relish Ric Flair's stunning defeat of Sting—long enough to realize it wasn't all that stunning.

Face it: Both men are less than 100 percent. Sting because of the lost mobility in his knee, Flair because he lost his prime about three years ago. Since they are both wrestling at diminished capacity, it appears to be a fair and valiant struggle. But put either man in the ring against Sid Vicious or Rick Steiner and their flaws will be quite vividly exposed.

As much as I admire Flair, the idea of another year of DQ-heavy title defenses and Four Horsemen shenanigans is hardly a stimulating prospect.

#### NEWS ITEM: More In The Gulf

Here is my choice for Wrestle-Mania VII main event: Sgt. Slaughter risks his title against Hulk Hogan. Hardly going out on a limb, you say? Ah! But here are the conditions: If Hogan loses, his retirement from the ring will be immediate and permanent. If Slaughter loses, he boards the next Army transport to Baghdad—do not pass Go, do not collect your Marine pension, you loath-some bucket of swine swill.

Like so many recent title changes, Slaughter's victory was by committee. Without help from Randy Savage and Sherri Martel, Slaughter's postmatch press conference would have convened at Miami University Medical Center, the closest hospital to the arena. I've given up asking why officials allow this kind of blatant interference to continue. Rather, I think there should be a ratings system for those who interfere the best. The well-coordinated effort be-Savage, Martel. tween Slaughter deserved a 9.95 on a scale of 10-I subtract .05 points for the stupidity and cowardliness of referee Dave Hebner, who should have evicted the duo after his first warning went unheeded.

At the end of the year, the best "Interferer" could win the Grand



Rick "The Model" Martel's stellar performance at the Royal Rumble may inspire him to wrestle more scientifically in the future.

Wizard Award, named after the man who turned ringside distraction into an art form.

As for the new champion, meanwhile, the WWF may be the only institution that will need to provide extra security to prevent an *American* terrorist attack.

This whole Slaughter issue, by the way, has nothing to do with respect for the United States; even at his most patriotic, Slaughter was an unwanted, ill-informed, inarticulate spokesman for this country.

Slaughter should tone down his verbiage out of deference to the families of soldiers overseas. It adds insult to injury to hear this maniac rant and rave while so

many loved ones face death and destruction so far away.

#### **NEWS ITEM: Royal Model**

Rick Martel became a model; Mike Rotundo became a broker; Dusty Rhodes was a plumber. In the latest Right Guard ad, Hulk Hogan appears as an artist. What's next: Lex Luger the cabbie? Sushi chef Hiro Matsuda?

All one can say after the Royal Rumble is that a little moonlighting seems to sharpen one's skills. For a record 52:35, Martel fought off 28 attempts to eliminate him, staying alive and very nearly winning the Rumble until Davey Boy Smith tossed him from the ring, four men from victory.

This magazine has over-glorified Martel's mediocre AWA title reign, but the truth is he is much better than we've seen him wrestle in the WWF. Perhaps the Rumble will motivate him to a higher plateau.

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#### **ON ASSIGNMENT**

(Continued from page 16)

wrestlers and she'll hold her own. She knows the rules. If she wants to dance, she better be able to pay the band."

Fan #3: "When a man's title is threatened, it is his obligation to protect it at all costs. Sherri is lucky to be alive."

Fan #4: "There is rarely ever a valid reason for a man to hit a woman, but this is one of them."

Fan #5: "You can ask that question after Sherri cost Warrior his belt? Hell, if I was Warrior, I'd forget the fists and get my shotgun. That lady ain't fit to breathe!"

Fan #6: "As much as she deserved it, it seems inappropriate for a 280-pound professional wrestler to attack a woman. Besides, it seems Warrior's quarrel is really with Randy Savage, not Sensational Sherri."

It is such a chilling reflection of society's values that fans—and half of them were women!—could condone Warrior's brutality. The closer Warrior came to sending Sherri crashing to the mat, the louder the cheers that were raised from the crowd. Next to me sat two men obsessed with Sherri receiving her just desserts: "Go for it, Warrior!" one kept screaming, while his friend snorted approval. "Rip her, Warrior! Rip her to pieces!"

It was not hard to imagine these men employing a similar philosophy in their own domestic situations. The number of battered women in this country rises every year. Scenes like that of the Warrior bashing Sherri send a very distinct signal to men: Got a problem? Go bang your girlfriend's (or wife's, or sister's, or mother's) head against a door.

Certainly, the point of this column is not to condone the reprehensible behavior of Sensational



Sherri. Her actions and those of her warthog companion, Randy Savage, are indefensible.

My concern is how people—especially young children—perceive the situation. In how many basements and backyards do kids emulate the moves of their wrestling heroes? The rhetorical question has an obvious answer.

I don't think beating up a woman, no matter how deserving of the scars she is, is something we should celebrate. If every cheer the Warrior gets for clubbing Sherri sends a message to grown men, imagine the clear signals it sends to impressionable children.

The solution is very simple: Sherri should not be permitted at ringside at all. It is the Warrior's responsibility to defeat his opponent, not police the outside of the Liz Hunter is concerned that the Warrior's rough treatment of Sherri sends the wrong signal to men and young children.

ring. He is justified in defending himself against Sherri's attacks, but he should never be put into that position at all.

The administration running the WWF is so weak and inconsistent and frightened of alienating its fans that it doesn't have the courage to ban Sherri from ringside. Because if Sherri is Why? banned, then Savage won't appear. Savage is a superstar who is accustomed to having his own way. The WWF won't run the risk of offending one of its top superstars. They're more comfortable risking a woman's life and perpetuating the image that violence against women is acceptable.

Way to go, Vince.

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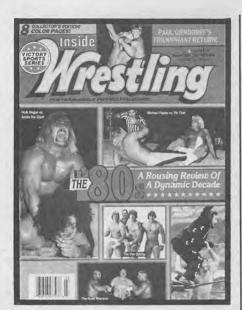
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#### SAMMARTINO-KOLOFF

(Continued from page 28)



After defeating Koloff by countout, David demanded an immediate rematch. He got it three days later and pinned his hated foe.

knew he had not done his father justice.

That moment of weakness was all Koloff needed. Grabbing his heavy, rusted chain, Koloff attacked David, whipping him across the back and arms. David grabbed the timekeeper's bell and used it as a shield to prevent Koloff from doing further damage. The real wounds, however, were in Koloff's words.

"You cannot beat me!" Koloff bellowed. "Your father could not beat me! All of the Sammartino family are losers! Losers!"

After the ring was finally cleared, David cornered Abrams in the locker room and demanded an immediate rematch. Luckily, another UWF card was scheduled three days later on Long Island.

"I can't let it end this way," a despondent David told Abrams. "My father was the greatest champion ever, but Koloff is using one victory nearly 20 years ago to defile his name. It was 20 years ago next week, Herb. I won't fail again. I can't fail again. I owe my father at

least that much."

Three days later, the debt was repaid. From the outset of the rematch, David's strategy was to be much more aggressive, and Koloff quickly realized it. This time, when Koloff tried to scamper from the ring, David caught up with him and hurled the Russian back to the canvas.

After being dominated for several minutes, Koloff resorted to a brawling attack. After a series of kicks and punches, Koloff tried to lift David up for a bodyslam, but David reached up, grabbed Koloff's head, and brought Koloff into an inside cradle for the winning pinfall.

"This was an anniversary gift for my dad, so to speak," a joyous David told reporters after the match. "For two decades, both my father and I have had to listen to that creep go around claiming he was a better wrestler than Bruno Sammartino. Now I've proven him wrong. He's not even a better wrestler than I am. I beat him, and I pinned him cleanly. Koloff's a liar, and I proved it."

#### **BACK ISSUES OF**



Be sure to fill in the gaps in your collection of INSIDE WRESTLING, "The magazine that rips the lid off pro wrestling." Get all the information you need to keep up on the pro wrestling scene. Don't be left out. Avoid sellouts-order today!

September 1982/Stories include: Atlas, Piper, Lawler, Brody

October 1982/Stories include: Rich, Andre, Piper, Dillon.

November 1982/Stories include: Flair, Snuka, Von Erich, Slaughter

December 1982/Stories include: Mulligan, Rich, Lawler, Grand Wizard February 1983/Stories include: Rhodes, Hogan, DiBiase, Race.

March 1983/Stories include: Junkyard Dog, Graham, Johnson, Funk. April 1983/Stories include: Snuka, Patera, Kabuki, Rich,

May 1983/Stories include: Rich, Snuka, Sullivan, Steamboat.

June 1983/Stories include: Studd, Garvin, Rogers, Orton.

July 1983/Stories include: Hogan, Free-birds, Rhodes, Youngblood.

August 1983/Stories include: Junkyard Dog, Garvin, Sullivan, Lawler

September 1983/Stories include: Zbys-zko, Piper, Andre, Hayes.

October 1983/Stories include: Wrestling II, Backlund, Junkyard Dog, Rhodes. November 1983/Stories include: Hogan, Reed, Von Erich, Dillon,

December 1983/Stories include: Von Erich, Samoans, Valiant, Road Warriors. March 1984/Stories include: Junkyard Dog, Rich, Rhodes, Garvin.

April 1984/Stories include: Flair, Steamboat, Superstar, Windham. May 1984/Stories include: Iron Sheik. Steamboat, Rotundo, Von Erich.

June 1984/Stories include: Flair. Slaughter, Cornette, DiBiase July 1984/Stories include: Valiant, Flair,

Martel, Wrestling II. August 1984/Stories include: Junkyard Dog, Magnum T.A., Idol, Spoiler

September 1984/Stories include: Martel, Brody, Von Erich, Iron Sheik October 1984/Stories include: Billy Jack, Road Warriors, Steamboat, Piper. November 1984/Stories include: Rhodes, Rich, Hernandez, Warriors.

December 1984/Stories include: Hogan, Warriors, Sullivan, Magnum T.A.

January 1985/Stories include: Magnum T.A., Rhodes, Atlas, Von Erich February 1985/Stories include: Rich, Adams, Valiant, Flair.

March 1985/Stories include: Backlund, Billy Jack, Koloffs, Von Erichs April 1985/Stories include: Warriors, Albano & Hogan, Steamboat, Gordy. May 1985/Stories include: Slaughter, Garvin, Albano, Koloffs.

June 1985/Stories include: Warriors, Slaughter, Von Erichs, Studd & Patera. July 1985/Stories include: Hogan, Von

Erich, Nikita, Warriors, August 1985/Stories include: Wrestle mania, Zbyszko vs. The Tonga Kid. September 1985/Stories include: Piper, Flair, Fantastics, Magnum T.A.

October 1985/Stories include: Russian menace, Von Erichs, Rude & Barr. November 1985/Stories include: Steamboat, Adams, Freebirds, Cornette. December 1985/Stories include: Santana, Brody, Andersons, Murdoch. January 1986/Stories include: Steam-boat, Mike Von Erich, Warriors.

February 1986/Stories include: R'n'R Express, Warriors, Mulligan & Windham. March 1986/Stories include: Windham & Rotundo, Warriors-Russians, Rude. April 1986/Stories include: Scott Hall, Rhodes, Flair, Andre, Bill Watts May 1986/Stories include: Randy Sav-

age, Stan Hansen, Rock 'n' Rolls June 1986/Stories include: Bulldogs Windham-Flair, Lance Von, Blanchard. July 1986/All-American Special Issue. Stories include: Hogan, Slaughter, T.A. August 1986/Stories include: Wrestle Mania 2, Garvins, Martel, Fab Ones.

September 1986/Stories include: Andre, Rhodes-T.A., Adams, Windham. October 1986/Stories include: Flair-Lugar, Savage, Fantastics, Warriors November 1986/Stories include: War-

riors-Flair, Bulldogs, Watts, Adams December 1986/Stories include: Hogan-Adonis, R&R Express, Baby Doll. January 1987/Stories include: Rude-Flair, Piper, T.A., Taylor.

February 1987/Stories include: Hogan-Piper-Orndorff, Taylor, Flair March 1987/Stories include: Flair,

Missy, Luger, Bulldogs, Koloffs. April 1987/Stories include: Windham, Steamboat, Ellering, Duggan. May 1987/Stories include: Windham &

Luger, Steamboat, Hogan-Andre. June 1987/Stories include: Piper-Adonis, Horsemen, Adams, Hall, Brody July 1987/Stories include: Danny Davis, DiBiase, Rockers, Rotundo, Andersons. August 1987/Stories include: Dusty & Nikita, Hogan, Mike Von, Cornette.

September 1987/Stories include: Hogan-Race, R&R Exp., Rich, Honky Tonk. October 1987/Stories include: R&R Express, Hogan, Taylor-Adams, Lawle November 1987/Stories include: War Games, Mr. T, Bulldogs, Rhodes.

December 1987/Stories include: Freebirds, Rhodes, Magnum, Savage, Perez. January 1988/Stories include: R&R-Horsemen, Hogan, Flair-Garvin.

February 1988/Stories include: Savage, Kevin Von, Sting, Tully & Arn. March 1988/Stories include: Bigelow,

Adams, Koloff, Honky Tonk, Freebirds. April 1988/Stories include: Luger-Flair, Ultimate Warrior, Andre-Hogan-DiBiase. May 1988/Stories include: Zbyszko, Di-Biase, Warriors, Rockers, Fritz Von. June 1988/Stories include: Warriors, Savage, R&R Express, Baby Doll.

July 1988/Stories include: Hogan-Savage-DiBiase, Kerry & Hayes, Sting. August 1988/Stories include: Savage Missy Hyatt, Sting, Hayes, Honky Tonk. October 1988/Stories include: Megapowers vs. Megabucks, Horse-

men, Lawler, November 1988/Stories include: Rhodes, Kerry, Luger, Muraco, Freebirds.

December 1988/Stories include: Powers of Pain, Ultimate, Flair, Piper. January 1989/Stories include: R&R Express, Hogan, Sting, Arn, Kerry-Lawler. February 1989/Stories include: Hogan-Bossman, Tully & Arn, Warriors-Windham-Sting.

March 1989/Stories include: Hennig, Midnights-Midnights, Fuller & Golden, Ultimate.

May 1989/Stories include: Hogan, Steiner, Morton, Bad Co., Taylor June 1989/Stories include: Hogan-Savage, Luger, Steamboat-Flair July 1989/Stories include: Savage, Windham, Kerry, Demolition, Sting. August 1989/Stories include: Hulkamania, Steamboat, Rude, Cornette. September 1989/Stories include: Savage-Hogan, Luger, Mascaras, Rhodes. October 1989/Stories include: Hall &

Pillman & Vicious, Hennig, Swats vs. Warriors, Rhodes November 1989/Stories include: Elizabeth, Sting, Luger, Paul E., Mascaras. December 1989/Stories include: Rhodes, Flair, Hogan-Zeus, Embry. January 1990/Stories include: Hogan, Sting-Flair, Roberts-DiBiase. February 1990/Stories include: War-

riors-Skyscrapers, Zenk, Rude-Piper. April 1990/Stories include: Starrcade '89, Ultimate, Rhodes, Sawyer. May 1990/Stories include: Hogan-Ultimate, Luger, Woman, Lawler, LPWA. June 1990/Stories include: Sting, Saito-Zbyszko, Earthquake, Ultimate, Jarrett. July 1990/Stories include: Steiners, Sting, Warrior & Hogan, Earthquake. August 1990/Stories include: Luger-

Flair, Hogan, Warrior, Taylor. September 1990/Stories include: Hogan, Duggan, JYD, Adams, Horsemen. October 1990/Stories include: Sting, Legion of Doom, Bushwhackers, Gigante. November 1990/Stories include: Flair, Hogan, Vicious, Slaughter, Orients December 1990/Stories include: Hogan, Sting, Kerry, Cornette, Zbyszko. January 1991/Stories include: LOD, Adams, Steiners, Lawler-Funk.

February 1991/Stories include: Taylor, Hogan, Martel, Sting, all-annoying team. March 1991/Stories include: Hogan-Earthquake, Roberts-Martel, Sting. April 1991/Stories include: Flair-Sting, Steiners, Piper, Zbyszko, Slaughter.

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# INSIDE WRESTLING'S

#### **TOP 15**

- 1-RIC FLAIR (5) NWA World champion
- -LEX LUGER (4) U.S. champion
- -CURT HENNIG (3) WWF I-C champion
- RANDY SAVAGE (6) No. 2 contender: WWF title
- STING (1) No. 2 contender: NWA title
- **—ULTIMATE WARRIOR** (2) No. 3 contender: WWF title
- 7-HULK HOGAN (7) No. 4 contender: WWF title
- 8-RODDY PIPER (9) No. 1 contender: I-C title
- SGT. SLAUGHTER (-) WWF World champion
- 10-SID VICIOUS (8) No. 1 contender: U.S. title
- 11-STEVE DOLL (12) PNW champion
- 12-TERRY FUNK (10) USWA champion 13—JEFF JARRETT
- (-) USWA Southern champion 14—STEVE WILLIAMS (15) Ranked No. 1 in UWF
- 15-STEVE LAWLER (-) Georgia champion

#### NWA

- 1-RIC FLAIR (3) 243, Minneapolis, MN
- LEX LUGER (2) 268, Chicago, IL
- -STING (1) 260. Venice Beach, CA
- 4-SID VICIOUS (4) 318, West Memphis, AR
- -ARN ANDERSON (8) 249, Minneapolis, MN
- TOM ZENK (5) 237, Minneapolis, MN
- 7—EL GIGANTE (10) 435, Argentina
- 8—TERRY TAYLOR (9) 225, Vero Beach, FL
- SCOTT STEINER (-) 235, Bay City, MI 10-BRIAN PILLMAN
- (12) 226, Cincinnati, OH
- 11-BOBBY EATON (11) 233, Huntsville, AL
- 12-MICHAEL WALL STREET (6) 245, Syracuse, NY
- 13—STAN HANSEN (7) 322, Borger, TX
- 14—JUNKYARD DOG (13) 305, Charlotte, NC
- -TOMMY RICH (-) 248, Hendersonville, TN

#### WWF

- 1—SGT. SLAUGHTER (6) 310, Parris Island, SC
- 2-CURT HENNIG (2) 235, Minneapolis, MN
- -RANDY SAVAGE (3) 245, Sarasota, FL
- 4-ULTIMATE WARRIOR (1) 280, Queens, NY
- 5-HULK HOGAN (4) 302, Venice Beach, CA
- 6-RODDY PIPER (5) 231, Glasgow, Scotland
- -HACKSAW DUGGAN (-) 280, Glens Falls, NY
- 8—JAKE ROBERTS (12) 246, Stone Mountain, GA
- 9—THE UNDERTAKER (-) 320, Dallas, TX
- 10—BIG BOSSMAN (8) 358, Cobb County, GA
- 11-EARTHQUAKE (7) 462. Montreal, Quebec
- 12—DAVEY BOY SMITH (10) 245, Leeds, England
- 13-KERRY VON ERICH (9) 260, Denton, TX
- 14—GREG VALENTINE (-) 243, Seattle, WA
- 15—RICK MARTEL (13) 236, Quebec City, Quebec

#### MOST POPULAR

- 1-HULK HOGAN Last month: No. 1 Most Popular
- -LEX LUGER Last month: No. 3 Most Popular
- STING Last month: No. 2 Most Popular
- 4—THE ULTIMATE WARRIOR 8—JAKE ROBERTS Last month: No. 4 Most Popular
- 5—SCOTT STEINER Last month: No. 6 Most Popular
- 6-RODDY PIPER Last month: No. 7 Most Popular
- -JERRY LAWLER Last month: No. 9 Most Popular
- Last month: No. 5 Most Popular
- RICK STEINER Last month: No. 10 Most Popular
- -BIG BOSSMAN
- Last month: No. 11 Most Popular
- **-EL GIGANTE** Last month: unrated
- 12—HACKSAW DUGGAN Last month: unrated
- -JEFF JARRETT Last month: No. 14 Most Popul
- 14-VIRGIL Last month: unrated
- 15-PAUL ORNDORFF Last month: unrated

#### MOST HATED

- -SGT. SLAUGHTER Last month: No. 1 Most Hated
- -RIC FLAIR Last month: No. 2 Most Hated
- -RANDY SAVAGE Last month: No. 3 Most Hated
- 4—SID VICIOUS Last month: No. 5 Most Hated
- 5—CURT HENNIG Last month: No. 6 Most Hated 6—RICK MARTEL
- Last month: No. 7 Most Hated 7—ARN ANDERSON
- Last month: No. 14 Most Hated
- 8-EARTHQUAKE Last month: No. 4 Most Hated
- 9—THE UNDERTAKER Last month: unrated
- 10—TERRY FUNK Last month: No. 10 Most Hated
- 11—TED DIBIASE Last month: No. 11 Most Hated
- 12—BARRY WINDHAM Last month: unrated
- 13—TERRY TAYLOR Last month: unrated
- 14-THE HOOD Last month: unrated
- 15-CACTUS JACK Last month: unrated

#### TAG TEAMS

- 1—THE HART FOUNDATION (1) WWF World tag team champions
- (2) NWA World tag team champions
- 3—RICK & SCOTT STEINER (3) U.S. tag team champions
- 4—THE LEGION OF DOOM (6) No. 1 contenders: WWF tag title
- 5—ARN ANDERSON & BARRY WINDHAM (4) No. 1 contenders: NWA tag title
- 6-POWER & GLORY (5) No. 1 contenders: WWF tag title
- 7—THE GRAPPLER & THE EQUALIZER (9) PNW tag team champions
- 8—THE FREEBIRDS (7) No. 1 contenders: U.S. tag title
- 9—THE ROCKERS (8) No. 3 contenders: WWF tag title
- 10—DEMOLITION (11) No. 4 contenders: WWF tag title

- 11—THE FABULOUS ONES
  - (-) No. 1 contenders: USWA tag title
- 12—THE RENEGADE WARRIORS (-) No. 2 contenders: NWA tag title
- 13-THE ORIENT EXPRESS (13) No. 5 contenders: WWF tag title
- 14—THE UNDERTAKERS (-) ICW tag team champions
- 15—THE NASTY BOYS
  - (-) No. 6 contenders: WWF tag title

These ratings are compiled by the editors with the assistance of promoters, wrestlers, and reporters around the country, and are based on won-lost records for the past month, quality of opposition, and the inherent skill of each wrestler. The number in parentheses indicates a wrestler's position in that category last issue; (-) indicates that the wrestler was not rated in that category last issue ... "Most Popular" and "Most Hated" ratings are based on nationwide surveys of wrestling tans and on mail that comes to our offices . . . Championships marked with asterisks on the "Roll Call of Champions" indicate title changes that have taken place since our previous issue ... The information under the championship listing indicates the date that champion won the title, who the former champion was, and where the match took place. For period ended February 1, 1991

### **ROLL CALL OF CHAMPIONS**

ALL-JAPAN ASIAN TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS:

JOHNNY ACE & KENTA KOBASHI

(September 8, 1990; tournament final over Bobby Fulton & Tommy Rogers; Fukui, Japan)

\* ALL JAPAN INTERNATIONAL CHAMPION: JUMBO TSURUTA (January 19, 1991; from Stan Hansen; Matsumoto, Japan)

ALL-JAPAN TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: STEVE WILLIAMS & TERRY GORDY (December 7, 1990; tournament final over Stan Hansen & Dan Spivey; Tokyo, Japan)

ALL-JAPAN JR. HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: MASANOBU FUCHI

(October 20, 1989; from Joe Malenko; Nagoya, Japan)
ALL JAPAN WOMEN'S PACIFIC CHAMPION: MINAMI TOYODA (October 7, 1990; for vacant title over Bison Kimura; Tokyo, Japan)

\* ALL-JAPAN UNITED NATIONAL CHAMPION: JUMBO TSURUTA (January 19, 1991; from Stan Hansen; Matsumoto, Japan)

ALL-JAPAN WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL CHAMPION: BULL NAKANO (April 1, 1990; from Mitsuko Nishiwaki; Tokyo, Japan)

ALL-JAPAN WOMEN'S CHAMPION: KYOKO INOUE

(October 2, 1990; for vacant title over Takako Inoue; Yamagata, Japan)

ALL-JAPAN WOMEN'S TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: TITLE VACANT (most recently held by Aja Kong & Bison Kimura)

AWA LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: BUCK ZUMHOFE

(August 12, 1990; tournament final over Jonnie Stewart; Rochester, MN)

**AWA CHAMPION: TITLE VACANT** (most recently held by Larry Zbyszko)

AWA TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: THE TROOPER & D.J. PETERSON (August 11, 1990; from The Destruction Crew; Rochester, MN)

AWA WORLD WOMEN'S CHAMPION: CANDI DEVINE

(December 6, 1989; tournament match over Judy Martin; Toronto, Ontario)

CANADIAN NATIONAL WRESTLING ASSOCIATION CHAMPION: RON RITCHIE (December 14, 1990; from Jerry Morrow; Calgary, Alberta)
CATCH WRESTLING ASSOCIATION CHAMPION: BIG VAN VADER

(December 22, 1990; tournament final over Rambo; Bremen, Germany)
GEORGIA ALL-STAR CHAMPION: STEVE LAWLER

(December 2, 1990; from Nick Busick; Carrolton, GA)

ICW CHAMPION: VIC STEAMBOAT

(July 24, 1990; from Tony Atlas; Middletown, NY)

ICW TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: THE UNDERTAKERS

(March 31, 1990; tournament final over Phil Apollo & Eric Sbracchia; Charlton. MA) IWA (JAPAN) WOMEN'S CHAMPION: MADUSA MICELI

(September 14, 1989; tournament final over Beastie; Kumamoto, Japan)

IWA HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: MANNY FERNANDEZ (December 5, 1990; tournament final over Cousin Luke; Washington Township, NJ)

IWA TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: SONNY BEACH & THE TERMINATOR (August 27, 1990; from The Motor City Madmen; Atlantic City, NJ)

IWA U.S. CHAMPION: PRESTON STEELE (October 5, 1990; from Cactus Jack; Girard, OH)

IWA WOMEN'S CHAMPION: BAMBI (March 25, 1990; from Peggy Lee Leather; Palmetto, FL)

IWGP CHAMPION: BIG VAN VADER

(January 17, 1991; from Tatsumi Fujinami; Yokohama, Japan)

**IWGP INTERNATIONAL TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS:** 

SUPER STRONG MACHINE & HIRO SAITO (December 26, 1990; from Kensuke Sasaki & Hiroshi Hase; Hamamatsu, Japan)

IWGP JR. HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: JUSHIN RIGER (November 2, 1990; from The Pegasus Kid; Tokyo, Japan)

LPWA CHAMPION: SUSAN SEXTON (by LPWA officials' decision)

LPWA TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS:

MISTY BLUE SIMMES & HEIDI LEE MORGAN

(March 13, 1990; tournament final over Bad Girl & Black Venus; Laughlin, NV)

\* NWA WORLD CHAMPION: RIC FLAIR (January 11, 1991; from Sting; East Rutherford, NJ)

NWA WORLD TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: DOOM
(May 19, 1990; from Rick & Scott Steiner; Washington, DC)
PACIFIC NORTHWEST CHAMPION: STEVE DOLL

(November 10, 1990; from The Grappler; Portland, OR)

**PACIFIC NORTHWEST TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS:** 

THE GRAPPLER & THE EQUALIZER

(December 5, 1990; from Steve Doll & Scotty the Body; Gresham, OR)

PACIFIC NORTHWEST TV CHAMPION: TITLE VACANT (most recently held by Scotty the Body)

PACIFIC WRESTLING FEDERATION CHAMPION: JUMBO TSURUTA (January 19, 1991; from Stan Hansen; Matsumoto, Japan)

PACIFIC WRESTLING FEDERATION INT'L TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: STEVE WILLIAMS & TERRY GORDY

(December 7, 1990; tournament final over Stan Hansen & Dan Spivey; Tokyo, Japan)

PRO WRESTLING AMERICA CHAMPION: TITLE HELD UP (most recently held by Ricky Rice)

PWF (FLORIDA) CHAMPION: STEVE KEIRN (July 9, 1989; from Kendall Windham; Orlando, FL)

PWF (FLORIDA) TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: RON SLINKER & SGT. ROCK (November 22, 1990; from Hurricane Walker & Powerhouse Parker; Tampa, FL)

PWF (FLORIDA) LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: JIM BACKLUND (August 2, 1990; from Lou Perez; Tampa, FL)

SOUTH ATLANTIC HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: TITLE VACANT (most recently held by Robert Fuller)

SOUTH ATLANTIC TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: BOBBY & JACKIE FULTON (December 29, 1990; from The Pit Bulldogs; Greenville, SC)

**TEXAS ALL-PRO HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: TUGBOAT TAYLOR** (January 18, 1991; from Tiger Conway Jr.; Conroe, TX)

TEXAS WRESTLING FEDERATION LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION:

**ERIC EMBRY** (by TWF officials' decision)

TEXAS WRESTLING FEDERATION HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: AL PEREZ (by TWF officials' decision)

TRI-STATE WRESTLING ALLIANCE CHAMPION: D.C. DRAKE (September 15, 1990; tournament final over Rockin' Rebel; Philadelphia, PA)

U.S. CHAMPION: LEX LUGER (December 16, 1990; from Stan Hansen; St. Louis, MO)

U.S. TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: RICK & SCOTT STEINER (August 24, 1990; from The Midnight Express; East Rutherford, NJ)

USWA CHAMPION: TERRY FUNK ember 8, 1990; from Jerry Lawler; Memphis, TN)

**USWA SOUTHERN CHAMPION: JEFF JARRETT** 

(January 14, 1991; tournament final over Brian Lee; Memphis, TN) USWA TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: TITLE HELD UP

(most recently held by The Fabulous Ones) \* USWA TEXAS CHAMPION: BILL DUNDEE

(January 25, 1991; tournament final over Gary Young; Dallas, TX)

UWA HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: BIG VAN VADER (November 22, 1989; from El Canek; Mexico City, Mexico) WWC CARIBBEAN CHAMPION: EL BRONCO I

(December 15, 1990; from Kim Duk; Bayarnon, Puerto Rico)

WWC CARIBBEAN TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS:

**GALAN MENDOZA & RICK VALENTINE** (January 23, 1991; from The Super Medics; San Juan, Puerto Rico)

WWC JR. HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: HURRICANE CASTILLO JR. (November 22, 1990; from Billy Travis; Bayamon, Puerto Rico)

WWC PUERTO RICAN CHAMPION: TITLE VACANT (most recently held by Manny Fernandez)

WWC TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: THE TEXAS HANGMEN
(September 29, 1990; from The Super Medics; Carolina, Puerto Rico)

WWC UNIVERSAL CHAMPION: TITLE HELD UP

(most recently held by Carlos Colon)
WWC WOMEN'S CHAMPION: SASHA

(December 15, 1990; from Monster Ripper; Bayamon, Puerto Rico) WWF INTERCONTINENTAL CHAMPION: CURT HENNIG

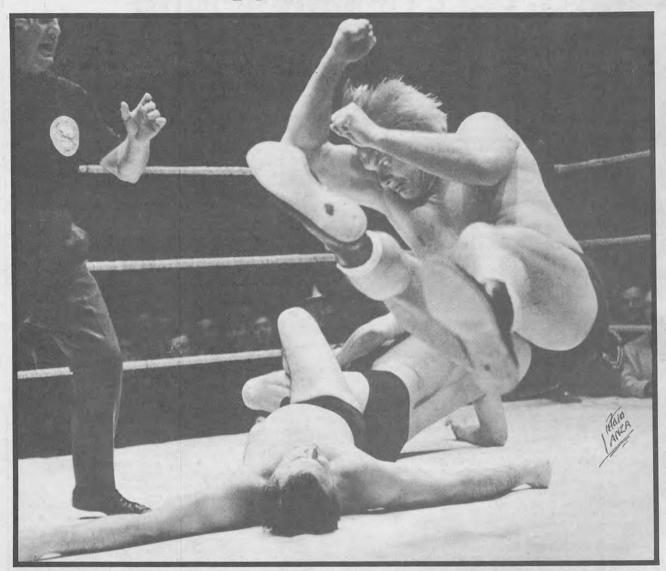
(November 19, 1990; from Kerry Von Erich; Rochester, NY)

WWF WORLD CHAMPION: SGT. SLAUGHTER
(January 19, 1991; from The Ultimate Warrior; Miami, FL) WWF WORLD TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: BRET HART & JIM NEIDHART

(August 27, 1990; from Demolition; Philadelphia, PA)

# Blast From The Past This Month In Wrestling History

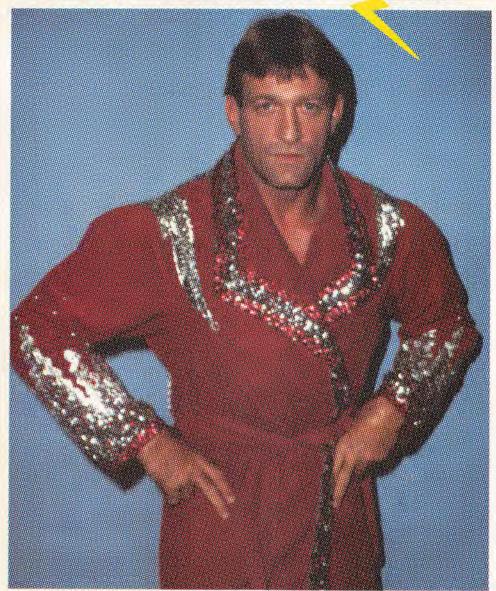
### "DOUBLE YOUR PLEASURE, DOUBLE YOUR PAIN"



# BUDDY ROGERS & JOHNNY VALENTINE vs. JACQUES ROUGEAU SR. & EDOUARD CARPENTIER March 1967

For most of the '60s, Johnny Valentine, father of WWF mainstay Greg Valentine, feuded with Jacques Rougeau Sr., the father of current WWF star Jacques Rougeau. The wily Valentine finally figured out a way to injure the popular Rougeau by double-teaming him during this wild tag team match in Montreal. Rougeau suffered multiple injuries after Valentine blasted him with a flying elbowsmash while Buddy Rogers applied a figure-four leglock. Valentine was happy with the carnage—even though he was disqualified—but his joy did not last long: Rougeau captured a countout victory over Valentine during a singles rematch a month later.

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